

**MOSAIC ALLIED VOICES (MAV) FIRST RESPONDER TALKING POINTS...
REASONS AND HOW TO BECOME A MAV FIRST RESPONDER**

PART ONE: WHY?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES?

- **PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS, COWORKERS, AND FRIENDS:** One in ten families in the US are directly effected by a person with intellectual disabilities at some time in their lives. They need your voice to help them speak and be heard.
- **PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES ARE OFTEN IGNORED:** Because they may not have access to public officials, often their stories are not told. Although they are citizens just like us, their rights are often overlooked.
- **PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES MAY NOT HAVE FAMILY OR FRIENDS:** Although we have family and friends that can rally around us when we need help and support, people with intellectual disabilities may not have family or friends because they have been isolated or institutionalized at some point in their lives.

PART TWO: HOW?

HOW DOES ADVOCACY WORK IN OUR COUNTRY?

- **ADVOCACY ALLOWS PEOPLE TO TELL PUBLIC OFFICIALS HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THEM.**
The United States is a democracy. In this system of government, every person has the right to take their case to the men and women who are elected to make laws and set policies on behalf of the rest of the people.
- Every person can make an impact by:
 - TELLING:** Telling their personal stories so elected officials can better understand how policies affect their constituents. Constituents are the people who live in the district or area that the official represents.
 - ASKING:** Asking for specific changes in the laws.
 - SHARING:** Sharing ideas for new laws.
 - PROVIDING:** Providing information.
 - SHOWING:** Showing their support for something the elected official is fighting for.
 - HELPING:** Helping policymakers look at issues in new ways.
- **POLICY MAKERS LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO CAN CAST A VOTE**
**The bottom-line: Policymakers listen to people who can cast a vote.
It's up to constituents like you to share your opinions!**

PART THREE: THE ASK

MOSAIC ALLIED VOICES (MAV) FIRST RESPONDERS ARE ADVOCATES

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP ADVOCATE?

- **SIGN UP BECOME A MOSAIC ALLIED VOICES (MAV) FIRST RESPONDER.**

WHAT DOES A MOSAIC ALLIED VOICES (MAV) FIRST RESPONDER DO? DOES IT TAKE A LOT OF TIME?

- **RESPONDING TO MOSAIC ACTION ALERTS:** As a MAV first responder, you will receive action alerts from Mosaic asking you to call, write, and e-mail officials regarding votes on issues that affect people with disabilities. You will let elected officials at local, state, and national levels know the needs and rights of people with intellectual disabilities cannot be set aside.
- **MINIMAL TIME COMMITMENT:** Your time commitment is small ... 5 minutes to call or e mail your elected official in response to a Mosaic Action Alert... The effect of your time commitment is big.
HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TO SAY?
- **ACTION ALERTS WILL GIVE YOU CLEAR AND CONCISE INFORMATION:** Each Mosaic Action Alert will include:
 - A brief history of the issue
 - The reasons it is important to people with intellectual disabilities
 - The specific action the official should take
 - Information about the ways to contact the official who needs the information.

HOW CAN I JOIN MOSAIC ALLIED VOICES (MAV) AND BECOME A MAV FIRST RESPONDER?

- **Please visit www.mosaicalliedvoices.org and learn how you can become a voice for people who might otherwise be unheard.**
- If you have any questions, please contact mona.mcgee@mosaicinfo.org or call at 877-366-7242 ext 1126.