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MEDIA ADVISORY

- WHAT:** 2016 Key Campaign Rally - Alaskans speaking up for the rights of people who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- WHEN:** Friday, February 19, 2016; pre-rally at 11:00 am and rally march at 12:00 pm.
- WHERE:** Anchorage - Pre-rally event at Flattop Pizza, 600 W. 5th Avenue and rally march at Town Square Park, 555 W. 5th Avenue.
- WHO:** Self-Advocates, their families, support networks and the greater Anchorage community.
- WHY:** To ensure the health, safety, quality of life, services and supports, opportunities and bright futures in Alaska for individuals who experience disabilities.

Key Campaign To Rally for Alaskans Who Experience Disabilities in Downtown Anchorage

Anchorage, Alaska - February 16, 2015 - The Anchorage community is invited to join together to advocate for individuals who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities for the 2016 Key Campaign Anchorage Rally this Friday, February 19, 2016 at 12:00 pm at Town Square Park, 544 W. 5th Avenue. A pre-rally event will be held at Flattop Pizza, 600 W. 5th Avenue, at 11:00 am for supporters to pick up signs and banners, and to receive information on current platform issues.

The 2016 Key Priorities for this year's Key Campaign effort are to encourage support of the ABLE Act at the state level; provide cost-saving measures to the State, that at the same time will not disrupt the quality of services for individuals who experience disabilities; and to urge our legislative leaders to maintain the State's commitment to eradicate the waitlist.

Registration for the 2016 Key Campaign pre-rally event can be accessed online:
<https://thearcofanchorage.org/events/event-registration?ee=777>

Every year, the Key Campaign facilitates a concentrated effort for self-advocates who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities to speak to the legislators about disability related issues. Many family members and support agencies also go to further reinforce the messages to the lawmakers. This year, the state-wide annual Key Campaign will be held in Juneau, February 18-19, 2016. Other communities across the state will also hold local rallies, details include:

- Mat-Su Valley - 12:00 (contact Stacey Andrist at 352-1200)
- Fairbanks - 12:00 at Sadler Building (contact Dean Gustason at 456-8901)
- Soldotna - 12:00 at Soldotna Creek Park (contact Les Baker at 420-3624)
- Juneau - 11:30 meet at Goldbelt Hotel with march to Capitol Steps, rally at 12:00 (contact Barb Nath at 227-8169)

The Key Campaign Anchorage Rally is a collaborative advocacy event hosted by the Key Coalition of Alaska, Catholic Social Services, Assets, Inc., Stone Soup Group, Hope Community Resources, the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Focus, Inc., UAA Center for Human Development, Partners in Policymaking and The Arc of Anchorage.

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