



## For Immediate Release

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Contact Information:

Nancy McEneny, CFRE

Vice President Advancement

704-944-5109

[nmceneny@lifespanservices.org](mailto:nmceneny@lifespanservices.org)

### **100 LIFESPAN PARTICIPANTS AND FAMILIES WERE SEEN AND HEARD AT RALLY DAY IN RALEIGH**

LIFESPAN, a non-profit organization working with children and adults with developmental disabilities, organized a trip to Raleigh on May 10<sup>th</sup> for over 100 people to advocate to their legislator's for continuation of services. All participants wore red clothing in order to be "noticed" as they walked through the halls of the legislative buildings and offices. LIFESPAN participants were "seen and heard" in Raleigh!

Highlights from the day include:

- Participants voiced concerns regarding possible North Carolina budget cuts, the 1915 b/c waiver, and case management.
- Between 10:30 and 1:00 the group had the opportunity to meet with 21 state representatives and senators.
- At 1:00, a planned meeting was held with Representative Jeff Barnhart-Cabarrus through community organizer Robert Dawkins and fellow City Councilman, Maliki Greene. Representative Barnhart spent thirty minutes speaking with participants and families.

Representative Beverly Earle was so impressed with the efforts of LIFESPAN and wanted to recognize the participants at the General Assembly meeting. At 1:45, the group headed to the General Assembly where Mr. Thom Tillis, Speaker of the House introduced the group to the General Assembly. He noted he was personally familiar with LIFESPAN and the fine work being done for individuals with developmental disabilities across the state. He asked the members of Senate and the House of Representatives to recognize the group from the floor. Representative Kelly Alexander, Jr. asked if anyone had any questions or concerns to share – one of our participants raised his hand and said "I do--I am a person, not a budget."

Every member of the LIFESPAN team, served as an advocate, voiced their opinions and shared concerns with key government officials throughout the day. Everyone received respect and left Raleigh feeling like they made a difference.

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If you want more information about Rally Day please contact Christopher White, Executive Director at 704-944-5108 or [cwhite@lifespanservices.org](mailto:cwhite@lifespanservices.org).