



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2020

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**ALLIANCE AWARDS REPRESENTATIVE ESGAR (HD 46- PUEBLO) WITH
LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

PUEBLO, Colorado - Each year, Alliance carefully selects a state legislator who has demonstrated consistent and thoughtful leadership to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. This year, Alliance members voted unanimously to award Representative Daneya Esgar with this important honor.

For years, Representative Esgar has been a champion for people with IDD, and, this year, she led the effort to finally [END THE WAIT](#) for the thousands of people waiting for DD waiver services.

“Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 crisis, we were unable to end the wait this year. However, we look forward to working with Representative Esgar in the future to finally ensure that every Coloradan with IDD receives the supports and services they need,” said Michael Atlas-Acuna, Executive Director of Colorado BlueSky Enterprises in Pueblo and a member of Alliance.

In a budget year mired with difficult decisions due to unprecedented budget reductions, Alliance is extremely grateful for Representative Esgar’s advocacy on the Joint Budget Committee to present a budget that protected services for people with IDD. Thanks to the work of the Colorado Joint Budget Committee under Representative Esgar’s leadership, during the 19-20 and 20-21 budget cycles, over 1,300 people have received or will receive the DD services they need. Many more will benefit because Representative Esgar helped to ensure the Children’s Extensive Supports and Supported Living Services waivers are fully funded with no wait list, protected Family Support Services, provided some critical targeted rate increases, ensured Early Intervention services are funded, and worked tirelessly to avoid reductions to IDD programs.

On top of all Representative Esgar’s work to prioritize people with disabilities in the budget, Alliance further admires her willingness to sponsor the 2020 IDD Awareness Day Tribute, which means so much to the hundreds who attend IDD Awareness Day each year. Representative Esgar is committed to going above and beyond for people with IDD.

“I have known Representative Esgar for about 25 years, we met at Roncalli middle school,” said Josh Rael, Alliance’s Executive Director. “Representative Esgar has always had a passion for helping people and has

Alliance is a statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs) that provide services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Alliance members serve over 10,000 individuals with IDD and employ 3,200 DSPs and case managers throughout Colorado.
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done a fantastic job standing up for the disability community and Pueblo. I'm so honored to be able to present this prestigious award to an IDD champion from Pueblo and a friend."

Alliance members and the Colorado IDD community thank Representative Esgar for her dedication to Coloradans with IDD and the community providers who are honored to serve them. Representative Esgar will be presented with the 2020 Alliance Legislator of the Year Award at Pueblo Diversified Industries in Pueblo, Colorado on September 15th, 2020.

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Alliance is a nonprofit, statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Services Agencies (PASAs) that is dedicated to strengthening services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Alliance members provide services to over 20,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Colorado and employ thousands of people to support them in every Colorado community. Learn more at www.alliancecolorado.org

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