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Quick Facts about Rosa's Law

1. The term "mental retardation" will be replaced with the term "intellectual disability" in federal **health, education and labor** statutes. Rosa's Law applies **only** to programs under the jurisdiction of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, such as IDEA, vocational rehabilitation, ADA, health care and a few others.
2. The law **does not** require any terminology change in state law. However, since many of the affected federal laws relate to state programs, the states will likely begin using the new term for these programs. More importantly, when a program covered by Rosa's Law such as IDEA is reauthorized, any rules to implement the changes will then use ID instead of mental retardation.
3. While most states have changed some terminology voluntarily and by statute, the **changes vary** in scope. For example, the vast majority of states have changed the names of their respective state agencies, using the term "Developmental Disabilities" in the agency name. But many of the programs overseen by these agencies still use the term mentally retarded (Example: Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICF/MR)).
4. A goal of The Arc is to get a similar bill introduced in the 2011-2012 Congress that will apply to other programs that are just as important to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, **namely Medicaid.**