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Letter of Support RE: AMAS, Incorporated

June 7, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

Arc Hennepin-Carver is an organization that for over 57 years has been providing advocacy and support on behalf of children and adults with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities, and their families. The comprehensive nature of providing these services does not occur without dedicated collaborating partners within the community. One such partner is AMAS, Inc. directed by Mr. Deen Ajibola.

People with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities encounter significant barriers in their attempts to self-determine and implement measures that lead to their appropriate acceptance and inclusion within various community environments. These barriers are magnified further when cultural differences and poverty also exist. AMAS Inc. is an organization who has worked in partnership with Arc Hennepin-Carver to not just identify barriers to the community inclusion of people with developmental disabilities, but also solutions as to how these barriers can be overcome.

Earlier this year, Mr. Ajibola was nominated to serve a three-year term as a member of Arc Hennepin-Carver's Board of Directors. This nomination was preceded by many hours of volunteer service helping Arc Hennepin-Carver and other community partners create culturally-appropriate living and respite environments for several individuals and their families from diverse backgrounds. Mr. Ajibola has been quick to garner the respect and trust of these families and has consistently followed through on the design of program services appropriate to the needs of the individuals supported within the AMAS organization. This has transpired with a high degree of satisfaction conveyed by the recipients of the services AMAS provides.

The acquisition of self-determination skills and increased cultural understanding is paramount amidst the service mission of AMAS, Inc. On a number of occasions, Mr. Ajibola and other members of the AMAS staff have directly provided education and guidance to the staff of Arc on complicated circumstances where enhanced cultural understanding was necessary to meet the needs of someone seeking assistance from Arc. The leadership and advocacy Mr. Ajibola exemplifies on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities within the AMAS organization and as a member of the community, is one of unwavering commitment. His passion is contagious and Arc Hennepin-Carver counts it a privilege to have him as a dedicated leader in the Arc movement.

If more information about the work and services of The Arc of the United States or Arc Hennepin-Carver is needed, please visit our website at www.archennepincarver.org or call me at #952-920-0855.

Sincerely,

Beth Fondell
Director of Program Development and Policy

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