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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(October 17, 2017) Today, The Arc of North Carolina released a statement regarding Cardinal Innovations.

On October 10, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services the Committee received an overview of the Interim Investigative Report of Cardinal Innovations. The Arc of North Carolina is deeply concerned that conditions exist that have allowed this type of blatant abuse of public funds. We have even greater concerns that such misuse and abuse diminishes, jeopardizes and threatens the resources and supports critical to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc of North Carolina believes that money spent on excessive salaries and needless high cost expenditures such as in-state charter flights is abominable. Cardinal Innovations has wasted valuable and limited resources that could have been used to better serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health concerns and substance use issues. This is inexcusable and it comes at the expense of some of the most vulnerable individuals in our state.

We applaud all efforts of the North Carolina legislature and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) to ensure that Cardinal Innovations as well as any organization serving the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is held accountable for such egregious decisions. We repeat our support of actions such as the passage of HB 403 by the North Carolina General Assembly and the administration of Governor Cooper, to put in place measures that ensure that this type of blatant abuse never occurs again, regardless of who is administering the funds.

We look forward to working with NC DHHS, LME-MCOs and all agencies and organizations tasked with providing funds and support, to ensure that individuals with disabilities with whom we work will continue to receive the services they need.

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ABOUT The Arc of North Carolina

The Arc of North Carolina is the largest disability advocacy organization in North Carolina and has been the voice of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since 1953. We are committed to securing for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play.

The Arc of North Carolina provides supports and services across the state to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information about The Arc of North Carolina, please visit www.arcnc.org