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“A MONUMENTAL VICTORY”

House Committee Passes Landmark Bill to Protect Disability Rights

[Denver, CO | Feb. 19, 2025] With their rights under attack across the country, individuals with disabilities won a dramatic, bipartisan victory in Colorado yesterday. After a packed and emotional hearing, a legislative committee unanimously approved [House Bill 25-2017](#), protecting Coloradans with disabilities from institutionalization.

The proposal drew powerful testimony from disability rights advocates, led by Disability Law Colorado, and resounding support from Democratic and Republican lawmakers. The House Health and Human Services Committee approved the bill by a vote of 13-0.

“This is a monumental victory—a crucial step in ensuring that individuals with disabilities have the right to live and work in their communities, rather than being forced into institutions,” said **Kelly McCullough, Co-Legal Director of Disability Law Colorado**. “Community-based services not only respect individuals’ autonomy but also are more cost-effective in the long run than institutionalization.”

HB 1017 enshrines in state law key protections from the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* The bill requires public entities to administer services in the most integrated, appropriate setting and directs the state to develop a new, comprehensive, community integration plan.

Sponsored by **Reps. Chad Clifford and Meg Froelich** and **Sen. Dafna Michaelson Jenet**, HB 1017 comes at a critical time—during profound shifts in the legal landscape. By codifying *Olmstead* protections, the bill recognizes the important contributions that people with disabilities bring to their communities.

About Disability Law Colorado: *Disability Law Colorado is a nonprofit civil rights organization, authorized by federal law to combat discrimination, abuse, and neglect. We aim to make Colorado the best place in America for individuals with disabilities to work and thrive.*

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