



DISABILITY LAW COLORADO™

Protecting the rights of Coloradans of all ages since 1976

455 Sherman Street Suite 130
Denver, Colorado 80203
p 303.722.0300 | f 303.722.0720
Toll Free 1.800.288.1376/Voice/TTY

322 North 8th Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
p 970.241.6371 | f 970.241.5324
Toll Free 1.800.531.2105/Voice/TTY

Written Comments Regarding HB18-1288 Conflict Free Case Management

Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice-Chairman and members of this Committee.

Disability Law Colorado is writing today to express support for HB18-1288 which concerns the implementation of conflict free case management for persons receiving home and community-based services under Medicaid waivers.

Disability Law Colorado, established in 1976 as The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People, has been serving Coloradans for more than 40 years. Governor Lamm, in 1977, designated our organization as Colorado's state protection and advocacy agency. Congress created the protection and advocacy system after a report exposed horrific abuse and neglect at Willowbrook State School in New York. Willowbrook was an institution that served individuals with developmental disabilities. In 1988, we added two programs to support older adults: The Colorado Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Legal Assistance Developer Program. In 2015, The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People officially became Disability Law Colorado.

Since the 1970's, Colorado has made progress towards moving Coloradans with disabilities from institutional settings to living in and being active members of their respective communities. Disability Law Colorado spends a significant portion of its resources providing advocacy services to Coloradans with disabilities receiving services, including home and community-based services under Medicaid waivers, in their communities.

Individual choice remains a cornerstone of quality, community services. Stakeholders, such as family members, advocates, and the individuals with disabilities themselves, would certainly agree that individuals receiving home and community-based services under Medicaid waivers should be able to choose where they live and who comes into their homes to provide services to them. HB18-1288 simply extends the concept of choice permitting persons receiving home and community-based services under Medicaid waivers to choose their case management agency.

For these reasons, Disability Law Colorado unequivocally supports the passage of HB18-1288.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider these comments.