

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Bipartisan Support Propels Disability Rights Bill Forward; Senate Hearing Set for April 17

**Denver, CO** — A major legislative effort to protect individuals with disabilities from unnecessary institutionalization passed the Colorado House of Representatives on Wednesday with **overwhelming bipartisan support, in a 60–5 vote**. [House Bill 25-1017](#) now advances to a hearing in front of **Senate Health and Human Services Committee**, currently scheduled for **Thursday, April 17 at 1:30pm**.

**The measure** embeds in state law key principles from the landmark *Olmstead v. L.C.* Supreme Court decision. HB25-1017 requires public entities to deliver services in the **most integrated, appropriate setting** and directs the state to develop a **comprehensive community integration plan** to better support individuals with disabilities.

"This bill affirms the rights of people with disabilities to live in community-based living instead of being segregated and isolated in institutions." said **Kelly McCullough**, Co-Legal Director of Disability Law Colorado. "The strong bipartisan support underscores Colorado's shared commitment to dignity, autonomy, and inclusion for all."

During Thursday's hearing, lawmakers will hear **firsthand testimony** from **Molly Kirkham**, a disability rights advocate affiliated with **The Arc of Colorado**. Molly brings both lived experience and a personal connection to the issue: her grandmother was institutionalized, and she herself relies on community-based services. Molly will be available for **in-person interviews** following her testimony.

Also available for **virtual interviews** is **Nancy Jensen**, a disability rights advocate and author of *The Girl Who Cried Wolf: A Memoir*. A resident of **Cañon City**, Nancy experienced unjust institutionalization firsthand and has previously testified before Congress about her fight for independence. **Contact Felix Ortiz to schedule an interview with any of the individuals above.**

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**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 people with disabilities to work and thrive. For more information, visit [disabilitylawco.org](http://disabilitylawco.org).