

House Judiciary

04/15/2025 01:30 PM

SB25-041 Competency in Crim Justice System Services & Bail

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Mary Peckham For League of Women Voters of Colorado</p>	<p>Testimony SB25-041 Competency in Criminal Justice System Services and Bail -</p> <p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Chair Mabrey, Vice-Chair Carter, members of the committee:</p> <p>I am Mary Peckham, with the League of Women Voters of Colorado. As you know, the League has been nonpartisan for all our 105 years. We support this bill.</p> <p>The League supports effective reentry planning and follow-up for people released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.</p> <p>This policy goal is achieved through key elements of this bill, which permit DHS to continue to provide services for up to 90 days after the person’s case is dismissed because the person is incompetent to proceed. DHS is permitted to enter into an agreement with an organization to provide permanent supportive housing for a person whose case is dismissed because a person is incompetent to proceed or the person has successfully completed a bridges wraparound care program, and for a person who has been referred to the bridges wraparound care program.</p> <p>These provisions provide needed support for families of persons (both juvenile and adult) who are deemed incompetent to proceed. Without the passage of this bill, once a case has been dismissed, the families are left on their own to provide the care and support of a loved one who has serious behavioral health problems.</p> <p>Thank you for the chance to testify. The League supports this bill, and we hope you will too.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

	Mary Peckham Legislative Action Committee League of Women Voters of Colorado
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04/22/2025 01:30 PM

SB25-041 Competency in Crim Justice System Services & Bail

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
<p>Kristin Soderberg For themselves</p>	<p>Testimony in Support of House Bill 25-1017</p> <p>Honorable Members of the Legislative Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to express my unequivocal support for House Bill 25-1017, which advocates for the essential support and services required by families caring for children and individuals with disabilities. As we consider the critical impacts of this legislation, it is imperative to underline the fundamental belief that children, and indeed all individuals, thrive best in environments where they feel secure, loved, and understood. For children and disabled individuals, this environment is unequivocally found in their own homes, surrounded by their families.</p> <p>The Necessity for Family-Based Care</p> <p>Children with disabilities, like all children, deserve the right to grow and develop in a nurturing environment. The intrinsic value of family-based care cannot be overstated; it provides not only compassion and understanding but also the stability critical for personal development. In-home care allows individuals to live in a space where they feel unconditionally accepted, thus fostering their emotional and mental well-being. This bill recognizes these essentials and is a step forward in ensuring that families receive the support they need to maintain this vital care.</p> <p>The Current Nursing Shortage and System Demand</p> <p>The reality of our current healthcare system is marked by a significant shortage of nursing professionals, which is particularly pronounced in specialized care sectors. This shortage, coupled with the rising number of disabled children requiring care, presents a daunting challenge for the state. Public facilities are stretched thin, lacking the capacity to provide the individualized attention required for effective care. House Bill 25-1017 highlights this gap and addresses the urgent need to empower families to continue their indispensable role as primary caregivers.</p> <p>The Importance of Family Support Services</p>

	<p>Supporting families with adequate resources enables them to meet the demands of caregiving, which often include physical, emotional, and financial challenges. It is crucial to enhance the availability and accessibility of family support services, such as respite care, specialized training for family members, and financial assistance for medical and therapeutic needs. Allowing families these supports not only sustains their ability to care for their loved ones but also positions these children for the best possible outcomes.</p> <p>Preserving the Dignity and Rights of Children</p> <p>Our children deserve a world that embraces them in all their uniqueness, providing them with opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed without the fear of losing their most cherished support system—their homes and families. Taking these children away from their homes is not only harmful but also disregards their rights to familial love and stability. This bill reinforces our societal commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of every child, ensuring their inclusion and integration into the broader community.</p> <p>Recognizing the Contributions of Family Caregivers</p> <p>Families of disabled individuals perform relentless caregiving tasks without the luxury of breaks or days off, their dedication to this labor of love is unwavering and invaluable. House Bill 25-1017 acknowledges the critical importance of their work by advocating for systems that support and sustain their efforts, providing the necessary infrastructure for them to continue this vital care.</p> <p>In conclusion, House Bill 25-1017 is a crucial piece of legislation that can transform the lives of disabled individuals and their families. By passing this bill, we reaffirm our commitment to a compassionate and inclusive society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this testimony, and for your continued commitment to supporting the most vulnerable members of our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kristin Soderberg</p> <p>Loving mother of a sweet 8 year old boy with medically complexity and severe intellectual disability.</p>
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<p>Mary Peckham</p> <p>For</p> <p>League of Women Voters of Colorado</p>	<p>Testimony SB25-041 Competency in Criminal Justice System Services and Bail -</p> <p>SUPPORT</p> <p>Chair Mabrey, Vice-Chair Carter, members of the committee:</p> <p>I am Mary Peckham, with the League of Women Voters of Colorado. As you know, the League has been nonpartisan for all our 105 years. We support this bill.</p> <p>The League supports effective reentry planning and follow-up for people released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.</p> <p>This policy goal is achieved through key elements of this bill, which permit DHS to continue to provide services for up to 90 days after the person’s case is dismissed because the person is incompetent to proceed. DHS is permitted to enter into an agreement with an organization to provide permanent supportive housing for a person whose case is dismissed because a person is incompetent to proceed or the person has successfully completed a bridges wraparound care program, and for a person who has been referred to the bridges wraparound care program.</p> <p>These provisions provide needed support for families of persons (both juvenile and adult) who are deemed incompetent to proceed. Without the passage of this bill, once a case has been dismissed, the families are left on their own to provide the care and support of a loved one who has serious behavioral health problems.</p> <p>Thank you for the chance to testify. The League supports this bill, and we hope you will too.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mary Peckham Legislative Action Committee League of Women Voters of Colorado</p>
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<p>Beth Marris For themselves</p>	<p>Thank you committee chairman and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.</p> <p>I very much appreciate the opportunity to relay some of our legal hardships that we have experienced, in hopes that you would implement this bill to try to improve the lives of our severely mentally ill loved ones.</p> <p>In 2019, my daughter suffered an assault that triggered her severe mental illness.</p> <p>Since then, she has been arrested countless times, and spent 18 months + incarcerated, waiting for competency restoration, that would never come.</p> <p>Would "competency restoration" mean my daughter would finally be treated? No way of knowing. Since she never received it. The state of Colorado has only ever offered 72 hours of treatment, for a mother of 5, who suffers from anosognosia (she doesn't realize that her reality, where practically everyone in her life has plotted against her to do horrible things to her and her children), isn't actual.</p> <p>Thus alienating everyone in her life.</p> <p>She languishes on the streets of Las Vegas, NV. Homeless, extremely vulnerable. In terrible physical condition as well.</p> <p>She won't come to Colorado, for fear (and she is correct) of more jail time.</p> <p>Please do what ever you can stop the criminalization of the mentally ill.</p> <p>They suffer so</p> <p>My daughter has lost everything.</p> <p>She needs help</p> <p>Please pass this bill to help</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Sincerely</p> <p>Beth Marris</p>
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