

Subject: Paid Parent Caregiver Hearings on February 6, 3-6pm
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 9:42:12 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Sen Gelser Blouin
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Attachments: Paid Parent Comparison Tables.pdf

Hearing is Scheduled for Paid Parent Measures

We now have a date certain scheduled for the hearing on these measures. The public hearing on [SB 91](#), [SB 646](#) and [SB 773](#) will be held on Monday, February 6. The hearing begins at 3pm and we obtained permission to extend the hearing all the way until 6pm. (It is ordinarily scheduled to end at 4:30pm). Logistical questions regarding the hearing should be directed to [Iva Sokolovska](#), the Committee Administrator. The agenda will likely be posted this coming Monday.

Recap on the Three Measures

All three of these measures provide payment to parents of minor children with disabilities in different ways. Regardless of whether any of these measures pass, parents impacted by SB 91 and SB 646 would remain eligible for all of the supports covered under Medicaid—including in home attendant care. However, without these measures, parents of minor children would not be able to be paid for that care. *(Please note that none of this impacts the ability for parents of adults to be paid as caregivers. This is current law and there is no proposal to change that)*

[SB 91](#) would require ODHS to obtain a new waiver that would allow parents of minor children in the service tiers “Very High Needs due to Medical” or “Very High Needs due to Behavior” to be paid for up to 60 hours a week of attendant care for their own minor child. **The back of napkin math for SB 91 suggests an increase of approximately \$12.2 million in GF/\$23.8 million FF for a total increase of approximately \$36 million TF.**

[SB 646](#) would require ODHS to seek approval from the federal government to pay parents of minor children for services provided under the state Medicaid Plan. There is no limit on hours provided each month nor on eligibility. All minor children eligible for ID/DD services could pay their parents for all of the hours for which they are eligible. **The back of napkin math for SB 646 suggests an increase of approximately \$157.8 million in general fund/\$306,407,641 million in federal funds for an estimated total funds increase of about \$464,349,456 in TF.**

[SB 773](#) would allow the Superintendent of Public Instruction to direct a local school district to reimburse a parent for reasonable expenses, including lost wages, when inappropriately placing a student on an abbreviated school day program. It is difficult to figure out how to price this one for a variety of reasons, including that it is a new concept.

I’ve attached the worksheet used to estimate the “back of napkin” cost for these measures based on current program usage.

Oral Testimony

Oral testimony can be offered either in person or virtually. However, the sign up process is the same for both. Once the agenda is posted, you need to register online to be called upon. You will find a button right next to the agenda item that says “Register to Testify.” When you click the button, you will

be taken through the steps to get signed up.

The registration is **only online** and it closes thirty minutes before the start of the hearing. That means you must sign up BEFORE 2:30pm on Monday, February 6. You **must** be registered in order to participate. Once have registered, you will receive further instructions about login or navigating the Capitol.

Written Testimony

Written testimony also needs to be submitted through the webpage. At the very bottom of the committee page, the last item on the Staff list is [a button](#) to submit your written testimony. Just click [that button](#) and it will take you to a form to upload your comments. This button will remain open until 48 hours after the conclusion of the hearing.

When you do go through the form, it will ask you which bill you wish to sign up for. I do plan to open all of the bills at the same time, but it will be helpful for the record if you could sign up for each bill you plan to address in your comments. I would recommend submitting testimony to both SB 91 and SB 646 so that your testimony is attached to the general idea regardless of which (if either) bill moves forward. Testimony regarding SB 773 can also be submitted, of course, but it is a different concept all together. SB 773 would require school districts to reimburse parents for reasonable costs when refusing to provide a full school day.

Due to the technology, I am not able to submit testimony for you and if you email it to committee members directly it will not land in the record. Any email intended to be included in the hearing record must be submitted through the link on the committee page.

Planning Oral Presentations

We have 3 hours to hear all three bills. We usually hold a space at the end of every hearing for “Youth Voice” which is for current or former youth who have experienced the child welfare system. On February 6, I will hold that at the opening of the hearing so that we can use the balance of the time for the three measures.

At the beginning of the hearing, we will hear an introduction to the bills and then comments from the Oregon Department of Human Services.

After this we will allow time for 2 15 minute panels:

- One from the coalition advocating a paid parent program
- One from those who have expressed concerns or are neutral

Each of these groups can choose how to organize their presentation and how to split the time, but will be limited to the 15 minutes. I will hold questions until the end of each panel to ensure that everyone gets their full allotment of time. If either of the panels wishes to share slides, please coordinate in advance with [Iva](#) so that they can be loaded correctly. The panel can be a combination of people who attend in person and virtually—or either one.

After the panels are done, we will move into public testimony. I will alternate between in person

presenters and virtual presenters (and also between those in support and those with concerns) until we are done or until it is 5:45pm. My goal is to give each person 3 minutes to speak. If that does not allow us to get through everyone, I may shorten the time depending on the overage. Regardless, we will reserve the last 15 minutes for questions and we must adjourn the hearing by 6pm.

Accessibility and the Capitol

The Capitol is currently undergoing major seismic upgrades. This means it can get pretty noisy and the outdoor areas are quite messy. Parking is less than ideal, with limited parking near to the public entrance on State Street. [Iva Sokolovski](#), our LPRO Administrator, is trying to secure additional accessible parking spots connected to accessible paths of travel. Unfortunately, due to the torn up street and sidewalks, we are somewhat limited there.

We are working to set up the hearing room in a way that will accommodate multiple wheelchairs at the same time. If you will have wheelchairs or strollers it will be helpful if you can let us know since we expect there will be many and we want the room set up as accessibly as possible. If you have other needs, please let us know.

Three other things of note:

- You do need to go through security upon entry
- The café in the Capitol is closed
- The only bathrooms are found in the office wings

You can find [further information](#) about participation this session (including practical issues regarding the construction impact) [at this link](#).

Process and what happens next

This is a public hearing. This means that anyone can sign up to testify. It is not limited to invited testimony.

I introduced SB 91 as a Committee Bill and not as a personal bill. It is up to advocates and stakeholders to work together to propose amendments and compromises to move the bills forward. All bills have to be out of our committee in early April and posted for a work session by late March. As a result, you should begin working on any amendments you might want to propose as soon as possible and play close attention to the information coming out in the coming days regarding the budget. I believe the Governor's proposed budget will be introduced this Wednesday.

Thank you so much for your ongoing engagement in these discussions!

Sincerely,
Sara

Senator Sara Gelsler Blouin

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Senate Majority Whip

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