

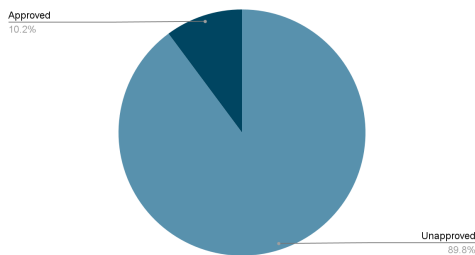
SB 1565

Ensures **equitable access** to attendant care support for Oregon's **highest needs children**

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After years of discussions between Advocates, Organizations, The Legislature, and ODDS, SB 91 was passed in 2023. This act aimed to improve outcomes for children with very-high behavioral and/or medical support needs by improving access to attendant care services through the employment of their parents. SB 91 built the framework for parent providers and addressed the concerns regarding eligibility, requirements, and training. However, the implementation of the program through a new 1915c waiver is failing to meet the needs of these vulnerable children while creating an even larger equity gap.

Current Waiver

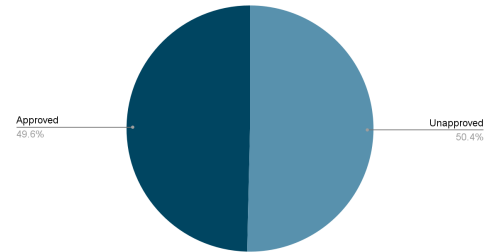


Through a random lottery, only 11% of the children deemed eligible by SB 91 due to their very-high needs will be granted the option to employ their parents as their attendant care providers.

SB 1565 addresses the equity issue of

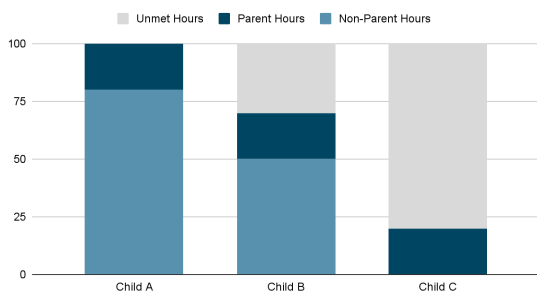
access to care by allowing all very-high needs children to employ their parents as their attendant care providers up to the balance of unused average utilization (also known as cost per case). This small change would provide critical support to an additional 515 children.

SB 1565- Proposal

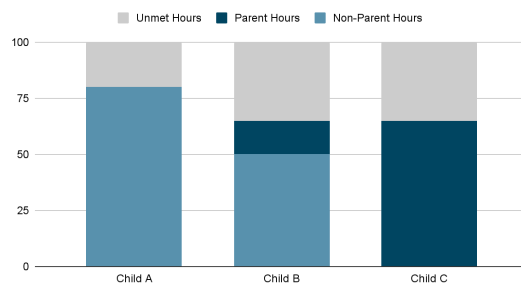


The current waiver would provide 20 hours per week of parent provided support to the 155 children chosen, regardless of their current support need. SB 1565 would allow a parent to provide attendant care services when there is a significant deficit in support. The parent may then provide support up to the balance of unused average utilization of hours of like peers, currently 65%.

Current Waiver



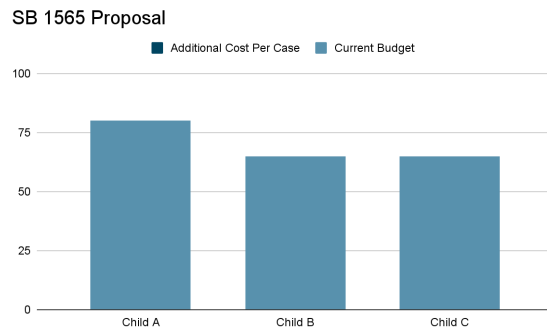
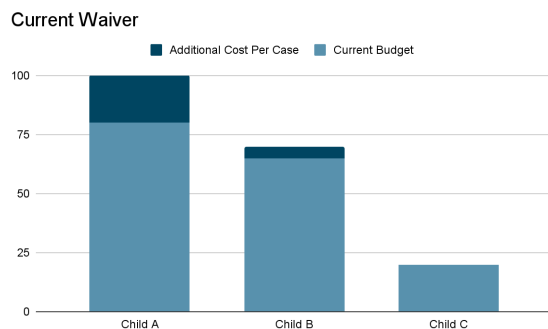
SB 1565 Proposal



All three of the children in the first example above (Current Waiver) are eligible for 100 hours of care per week. Child A has care providers supporting them 80 hours a week, Child B is supported for 50 hours, and Child C receives no support. Under the current waiver, if selected, each child would be able to utilize an additional 20 hours of their authorized support, totalling 60 hours by parent providers.

In the second example (SB 1565 Proposal), 80 hours of support is accessible to these three children. Child A is not eligible for parent provided support as they are able to access a substantial percentage of their authorized hours already, Child B receives 15 hours of parental support, and Child C receives 65 hours of parental support. SB 1565 provides an equitable distribution of access to support for the children who need it most, targeting the funding required to meet the needs of each child.

Fiscal impact has been an integral part of the conversation regarding parent provided support. It must be made clear that these attendant care hours are provided to developmentally disabled children through Oregon's Community First Choice Plan Amendment, an entitlement program for home and community based services. Multiple assessments are conducted to quantify the amount of support each child requires beyond that of their typically developing peers. Any increased cost is directly tied to the child's ability to utilize the support they require to live and thrive within their homes.



SB 1565's targeted approach to support may actually be more cost-effective as opposed to the blanket allotment of the current waiver version. In the above examples, we see that the increased cost above average utilization is 25 hours between the three children whereas the increased cost per case is 0 hours with the more balanced, equitable approach of SB 1565.

Attendant care services are one of the most important supports disabled children receive. These services provide one on one daily support for maintenance of health and safety while increasing access to community inclusion. Most of all, they ensure skill development and growth, reducing the child's support needs throughout their lifespan. SB 1565 ensures Oregon's highest needs children can access the care they need, regardless of their circumstance.