



Medicaid Waiver for medically-involved children

FAST FACTS

- ⇐ HB 2406 will create a Medically Involved Home Care Program in the Department of Human Services.
- ⇐ Up to 200 children will be eligible for Medicaid Waiver services irrespective of family income.
- ⇐ Services may include home nursing care, durable medical equipment, and respite care.

Oregon families caring for medically involved children receive very little, if any, support or assistance. Many families are forced to place their children in foster care or nursing homes. Others impoverish themselves to access Medicaid services. Many more simply exhaust themselves physically and financially as they provide demanding care 24 hours a day, putting their entire families at risk. Oregon is one of the few states in the nation that does not provide access to a Medicaid Waiver for medically-involved children.

Who are “medically involved children”?

These are children whose level of disability requires total assistance with eating, dressing, toileting, and mobility. They may use feeding tubes, incontinence supplies, require durable medical equipment, and often require frequent repositioning over a 24 hour period.

What would a Medicaid Waiver do?

A waiver would allow medically-involved children to receive help and support in their family home even if their family is not eligible for Medicaid.

Why should Oregon seek a Medicaid Waiver for medically-involved children?

- ▶ Children should have the opportunity to grow up in their own home with families who love them.
- ▶ Families should not be forced to choose out-of-home placement to meet their children’s needs.
- ▶ It costs less to support a child in their family home than in a nursing home or foster care.

Data: Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs 2001. www.cshcndata.org



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