

HCBS Impacts Tracker: early efforts to monitor changes to HCBS

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Milken Institute School
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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

 Human Services
Research Institute

 **LeadingAge**
LTSS CENTER
@UMass Boston
Research bridging policy and practice

ATI Advisory

THE SCAN FOUNDATION




Who's Involved?

Project Period: January 2026 – September 2026

Project Lead

George Washington
University (GWU)

Alison Barkoff
(Principal Investigator)

Partners

Human Services
Research Institute
(HSRI)

LeadingAge LTSS Center
@ UMass Boston

ATI Advisory

Funder(s)

This project is
funded by The SCAN
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collaborating
support from the
WITH Foundation.

Project Background

- **Federal policy changes, including cuts to Medicaid financing through H.R. 1/OBBBA, have increased pressure on state's Medicaid budgets**
- **Many states will likely respond by reducing funding to optional services like Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)**
 - HCBS support older adults and people with disabilities to live in their homes and communities
- **Types of changes to HCBS and their impacts are difficult to detect and interpret consistently at the state level and to understand at a population-level**

Potential HCBS Reductions

Elimination of HCBS programs or services within programs

Reduced waiver slots or service caps

Cuts to HCBS provider rates

Higher eligibility for HCBS programs (esp. Level of Care)

Reduced capitation rates

Policies that force people into more congregate supports

Why Is Real-Time Tracking Impacts of OBBBA on HCBS Systems Important?

Mitigate Harms

- Tracking is critical to advocacy efforts
- Tracking proposed changes provides opportunities to impact them
- Tracking will provide opportunities for shared learning of advocacy strategies across states

Document

- Changes in HCBS policies are hard to track and can be subtle; it is important to document them
- Changes will have impacts on people receiving or who need HCBS, including older adults, people with disabilities, family caregivers, and direct care workers

Future Opportunities

- Documenting the changes and impacts allows us to be ready for future opportunities to undo/address harms and strengthen HCBS systems

Potential Impacts of HCBS Reductions

Decreased utilization of HCBS and longer HCBS waiting lists

Worsened direct care workforce crisis

Increased number of family caregivers

Higher use of institutional care

Increased physician visits, ER visits, and mortality

Increased use of congregate settings over individualized supports

What Are We Tracking?

**Proposed and enacted
HCBS policy changes**

**Across all populations
that use HCBS**

**Across all HCBS
authorities**

**Policy changes through
all legal authorities
(legislative, budget, waivers,
agency actions)**

HCBS Tracker Landing Page

Home and Community Based Services Impacts Tracker Project

<http://go.gwu.edu/HCBStracker>

The HCBS Impacts Tracker Project is led by the [George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program](#) together with [Human Services Research Institute](#), [LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston](#), and [ATI Advisory](#). This project is funded by [The SCAN Foundation](#) with collaborating support from the [WITH Foundation](#).

[HCBS Impacts Tracker](#)

The HCBS Impact Tracker includes proposed and implemented changes by states to their HCBS programs. It is a work in progress and in a pilot phase. In an effort to fill a need we are hearing from national and state partners, we are making this information available. We encourage you to bookmark the tracker to stay up to date with the biweekly updates. If we are missing any state policy changes or information is incorrect, please complete the HCBS Information Collection Form linked below to let us know.

The tracker was last updated May 22, 2026.

[HCBS Information Collection Form](#)

Please use the HCBS Information Collection Form to let us know about a proposed or implemented change that we are missing from the HCBS Impacts Tracker. This form is intended to be completed by national, state, or local organizations.

This tracker is owned by GW Milken Institute School of Public Health, Human Services Research Institute, LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston, and ATI Advisory. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact us at HCBStracker@gwu.edu.

How to Use the Tracker

How to Use: First, ensure you have enabled a filter view. To do this click the "HCBS Changes" tab at the bottom of this document. Then, in the toolbar at the top of the document, select "Data" and then select "+ Create filter view." By clicking the 3 horizontal lines at the top of each column, you can select which criteria you would like to filter by. The spreadsheet is filterable by several categories including state, legal authority, category of change, and status of the action. By clicking the 3 horizontal lines at the top of each column, you can select which criteria you would like to filter by. The tracker is currently sorted by the date the rows were last updated, with the most recent update at the top. We suggest at a minimum, you utilize the state filtering function.

Last Updated	State	Legal Authority	Type of Change	Status	Brief Description	Date Proposed
26-May-26	OH	Executive Order Agency Action	Other	Enacted	Gov. DeWine proposed the following changes: - Removing or suspending providers that have been flagged as having suspicious payments through data analytic tools - Emergency rules that will require provider revalidation more frequently - Required GPS tracking for electronic visit verification (EVV) ensuring location of service delivery matches the patient location - Required electronic visit verification for all live-in caregivers	13-May-26
20-May-26	KS	Money Follows the P... Agency Action	Elimination of an HCBS program	Enacted	Elimination of MFP.	6-May-26
20-May-26	OH	Agency Action	More restrictive eligibility Increases in HCBS	Proposed	Department of of Developmental Disabilities has proposed the following changes: - Implementing the InterRAI assessment tool to assess HCBS waiver participants' needs - Making Environmental Accessibility Adaptations available for those enrolled in the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver - Increased funding for Environmental Accessibility Adaptation services to \$15,000 per project from \$10,000	10-Apr-26

Information Collection Form

If you notice any missing, outdated, or incorrect information please fill out our information collection form.

- The form is intended to be completed by national, state, or local organizations
- Please provide as much information as you can!
 - It is okay if you don't answer all of the questions
- You may fill out this form more than once if you would like to report multiple changes to HCBS
- We will be reviewing responses and adding new changes to the tracker

Coming Soon

- **MAP-It: A Medicaid Action & Policy Impact Tracker for Disability and Aging Supports.** *Funded by the WITH Foundation, with collaborating support from The SCAN Foundation.*
 - In March 2026, the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) received a one-year grant from the [WITH Foundation](#) to launch *MAP-It: A Medicaid Action & Policy Impact Tracker for People with Disabilities*.
 - The project is led by HSRI, in collaboration with colleagues at the George Washington University (GWU), and in partnership with the American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD) for communications.
 - MAP-It is intentionally aligned with the [SCAN Foundation](#)–funded planning study (January–September 2026) that is designing a sustainable national infrastructure to track HCBS changes affecting older adults and people with disabilities across the lifespan.

<https://www.hsri.org/map-it/>

MAP-It

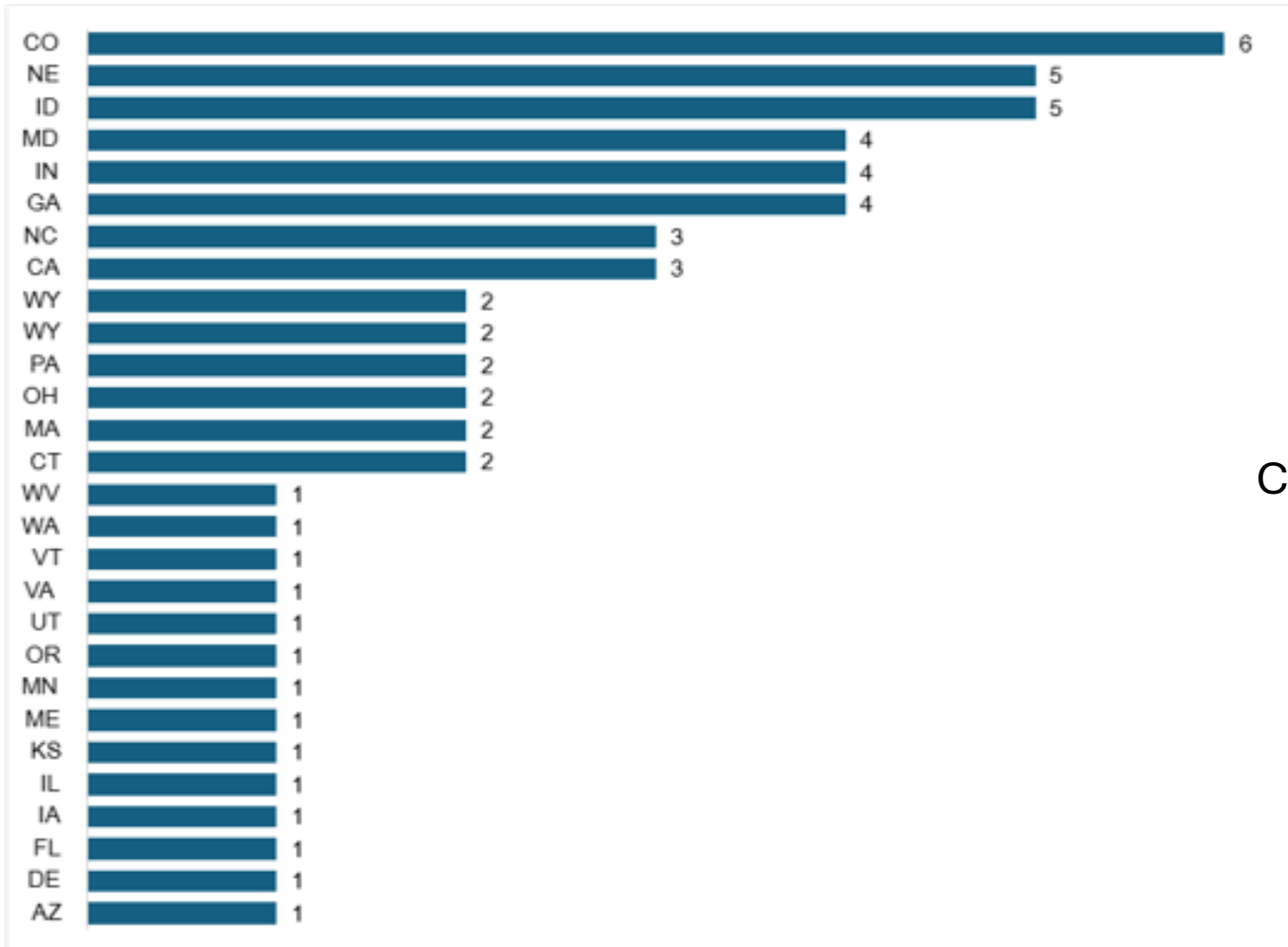
A Medicaid Action & Policy Impact Tracker for Disability and Aging Supports.

- **Purpose** is to create a public-facing, accessible policy tracker that translates complex Medicaid actions into clear, usable information that supports disability-led advocacy and civic engagement at the state level. MAP-It is explicitly informed and driven by community priorities, centering lived experience while strengthening links between disability and older-adult advocacy networks. It will:
 - Leverage the [Grassroots Project's](#) national advocacy networks to ensure lived experience informs what is tracked, how information is framed, and how it is shared.
 - Bridge disability and aging policy efforts by aligning methods, data frameworks, and engagement strategies with the SCAN Foundation–funded planning study.
 - Produce an implementation-ready tool and database that can evolve beyond the pilot year and support future policy monitoring and research.

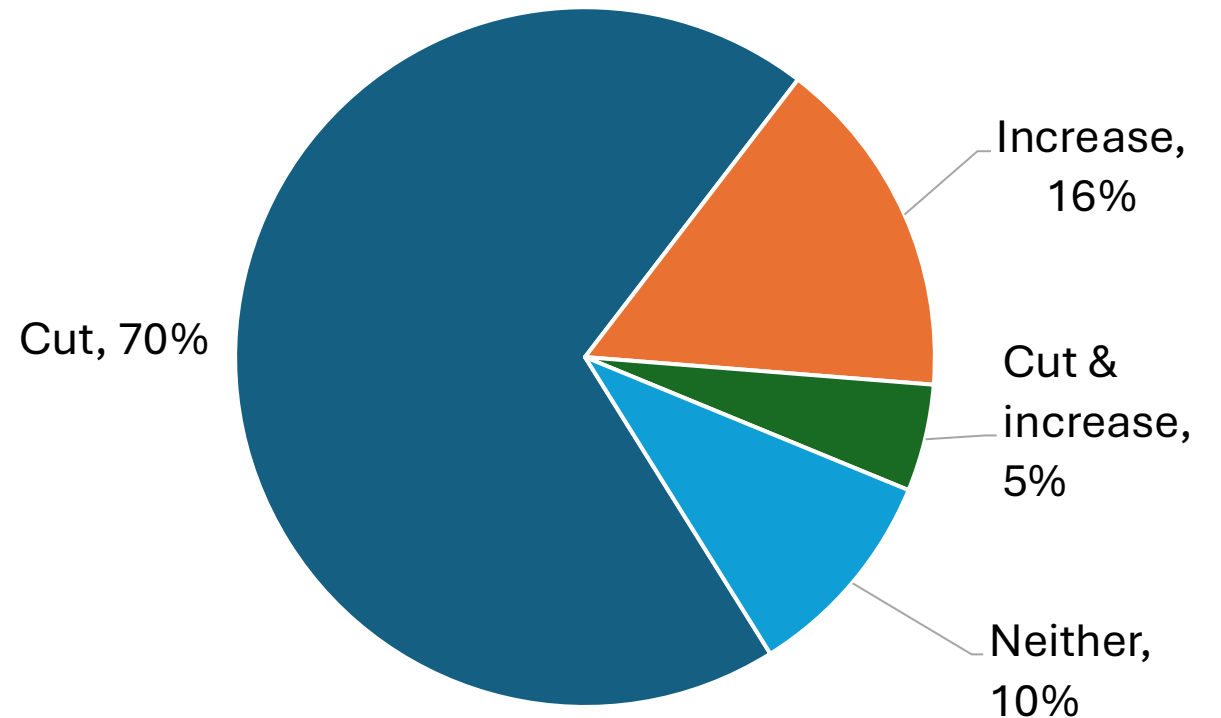
<https://www.hsri.org/map-it/>

Early Trends*

Number of States Taking Actions (28)

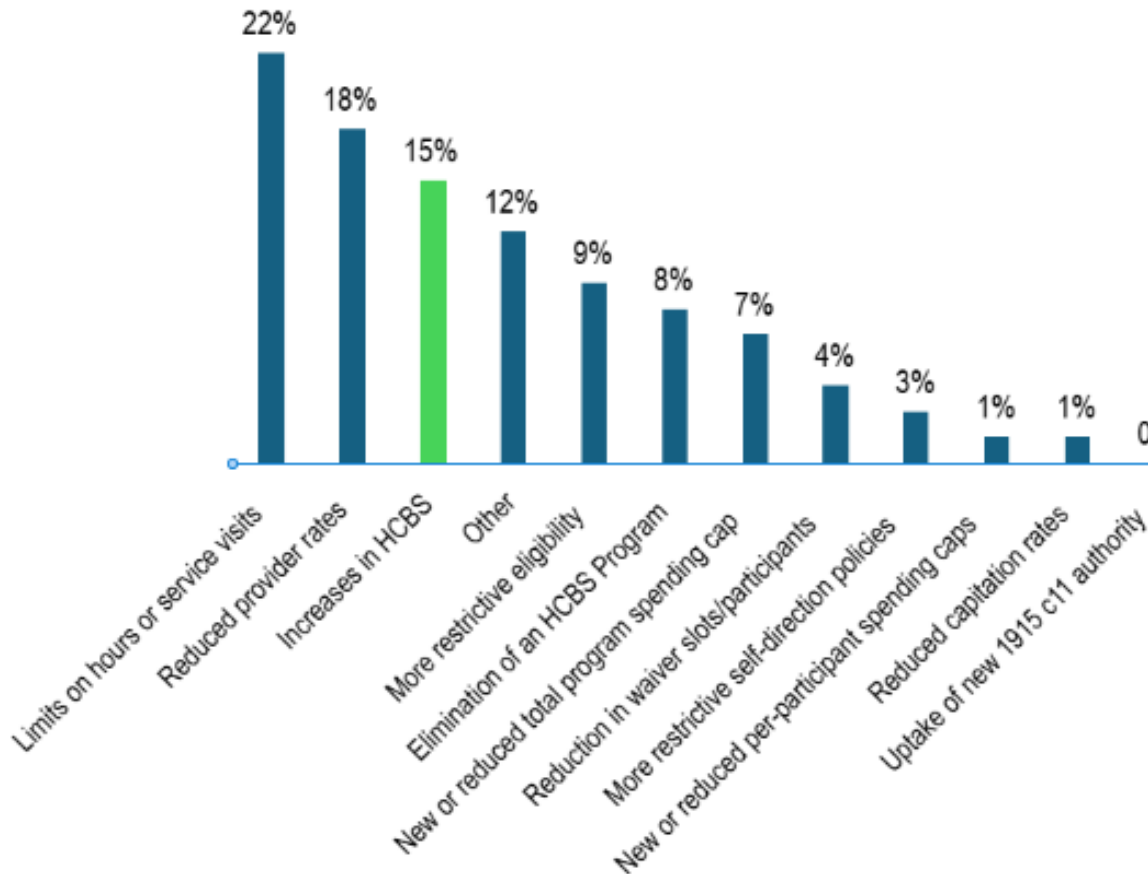


Percentage of Cuts and Increases



* Based on pilot data in the tracker as of May 22, 2026.

Early Trends* (May 2026)

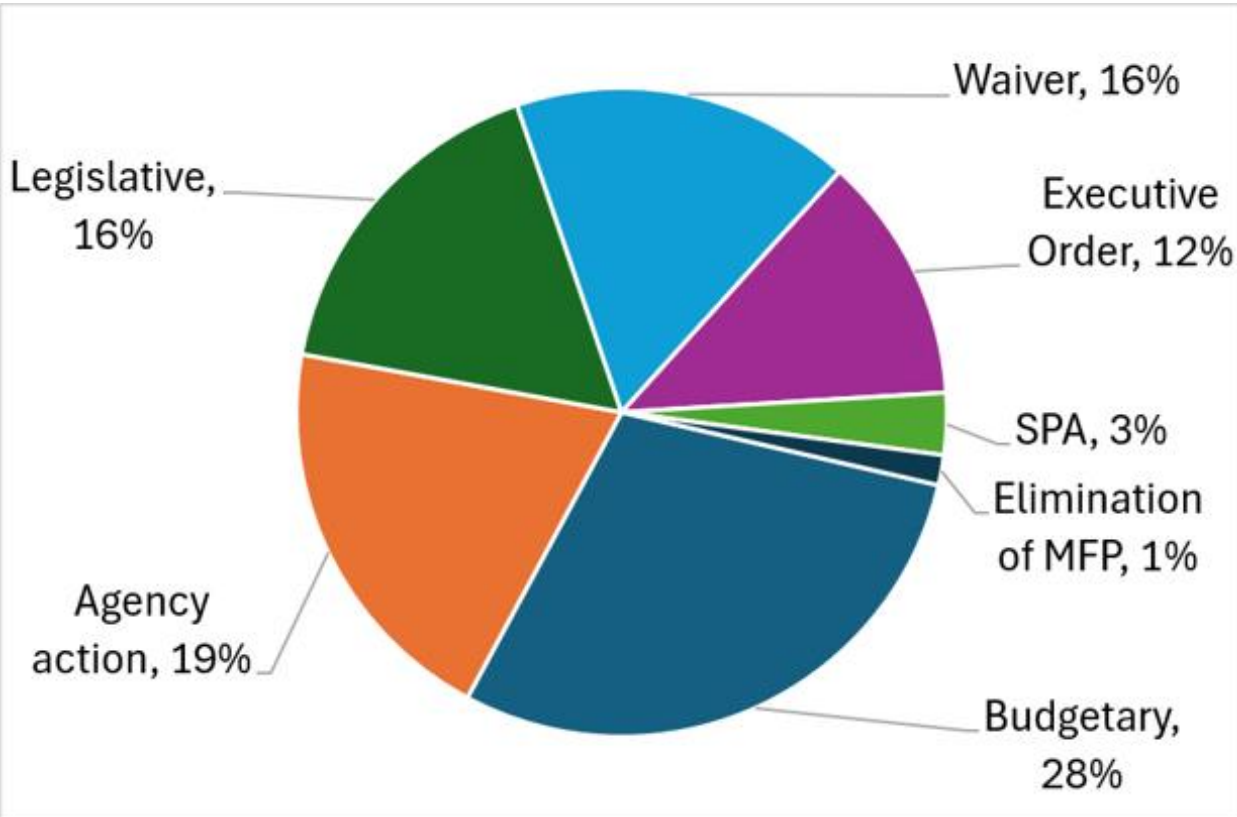


The largest portion of actions tracked to-date are limits on hours or service visits or reduced provider rates.

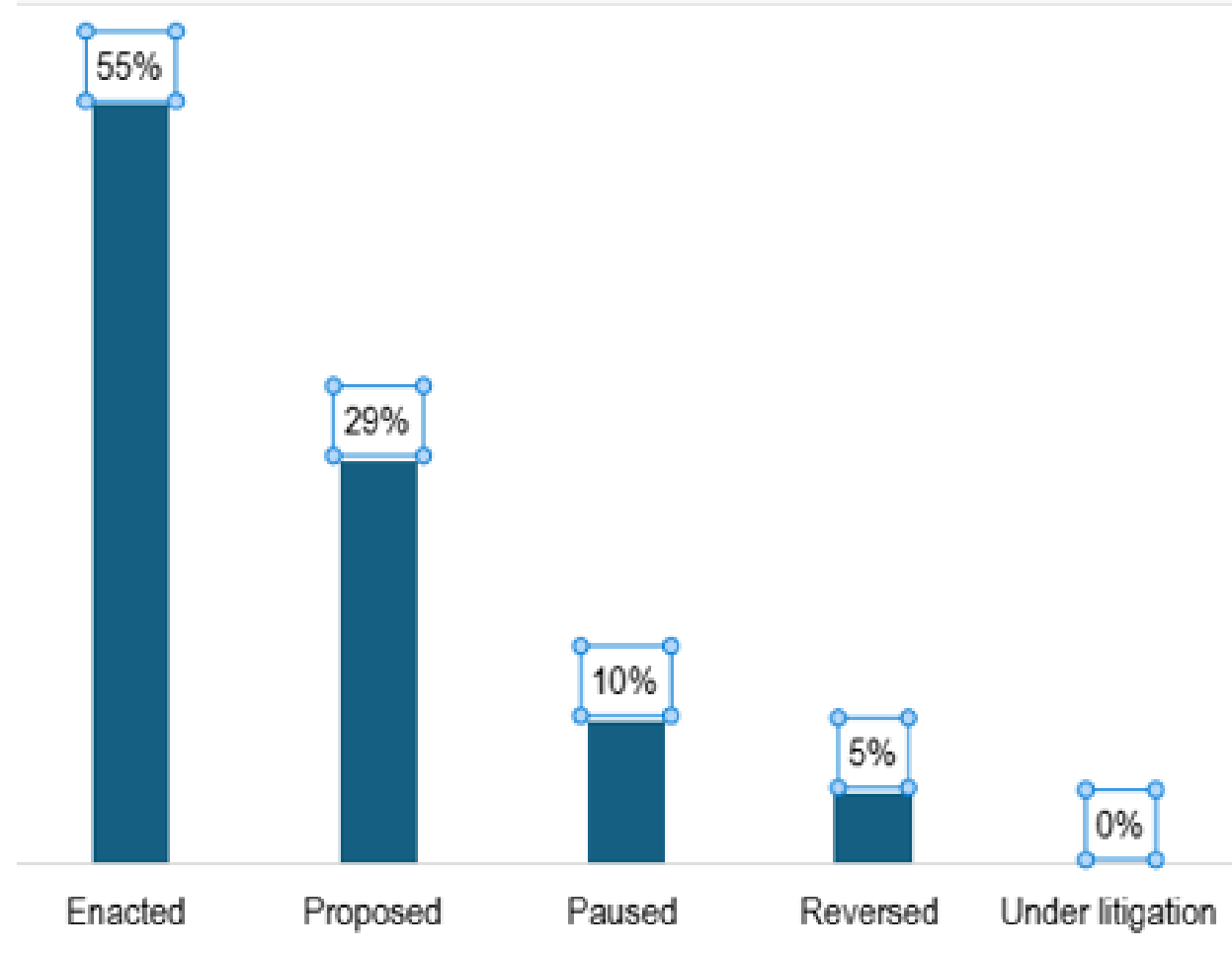
Increases in HCBS tracked in 15% (74 actions)

Early Trends*

Percentage of Actions by Authority



Status of Actions



* Based on pilot data in the tracker as of May 23, 2026

Contact hcbstracker@gwu.edu with questions and/or inquiries.

Landing Page: <http://go.gwu.edu/HCBStracker>

Contact: ABonardi@hsri.org

Thank you!

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