

Submitter: Susan Gallagher-Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure: SB1565

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, members of the Senate Healthcare Committee, my name is Susan Gallagher-Smith. I urge you to support SB 1565.

I'm a solo parent and small business owner from Eugene, Oregon. I am a very proud mother of a charming nine year old whose favorite subjects in school are recess, PE and math.

My child has multiple disabilities and receives services through DDS.

Being a parent is hard. Being a parent without a village or other supports is very hard. Being a parent to a child who has very specific needs to meet their health and safety needs without a strong village and community is nearly impossible.

Our state has asked parents of disabled children to provide unpaid skilled care, sometimes twenty-four hours a day, on top of parenting, working and other household duties every parent is familiar with all within a 24 hour day. Juggling all of these roles destabilizes the homes of disabled children in Oregon.

SB 1565 helps Oregon support disabled children and stabilizes their homes. SB 1565 will help the State of Oregon fulfill its promise to provide services for disabled residents in their communities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.