

Submitter: Advocates For Disability Supports
On Behalf Of: Nicole Menchaca
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

Hello Lawmakers, I am asking for your support of TENSY'S LAW (SB 538). The bill would increase access to Oregon's Children's Extraordinary Needs (CEN) waiver; allow parents of minors to be personal support workers; and ensure this compensation comes from already-obligated funding. Caring for a child with complex medical needs is a full-time job, yet many families are forced to live in poverty because the state refuses to compensate them for this labor. A staggering 75% of these families rely on public assistance, even though two-thirds say they could leave at least one assistance program if they were enrolled into CEN. Tensy's Law provides an immediate, no-cost workforce solution by allowing parents-who are already trained, qualified, and committed-to provide this essential care. Thank you for your consideration. Nicole Menchaca