

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

Hello Lawmakers, Please vote YES on Tensy's Law, SB 538. Although parents of disabled adults can be paid caregivers, this option isn't available for children, leaving many young families with impossible choices. Tensy's Law 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. When I was a CNA, I saw firsthand the work and toll it took on families who cared for their adult disabled family members. Having also worked with children with high needs and in rural/at-risk settings, I one-hundred percent hope for families to get compensation for being with their children which whom cannot be in classrooms or parents cannot work at home while also supporting their high needs children. Oregon has a legal and moral obligation to ensure that children with disabilities receive the care they are entitled to. The state already assesses the number of care hours a child needs, yet it consistently fails to meet these obligations due to workforce shortages. Tensy's Law is a simple solution: allow parents to be paid caregivers, ensuring that children receive the care they are entitled to while keeping them in the homes they know and love. Yours, K.