

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

ATTN: Legislators Please lend your SUPPORT to Senate Bill 538, or "Tensy's Law." Although parents of disabled adults can be paid caregivers, this option isn't available for children, leaving many young families with impossible choices. SB 538 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. Oregon's homecare workforce shortage is well-documented. Over 90% of families report they cannot find enough caregivers to fill their authorized hours. This shortage is even more severe in rural areas, where specialized caregivers are virtually nonexistent. 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. Sincerely, Lydia Merrill