

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

Dear Oregon Lawmakers: Please vote yes on Senate Bill 538, also known as 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. This would be so meaningful to all families of disabled children. My autistic 7 year old son could not thrive in a school environment and so we had to pull him out of the public school system. With this legislation our family would be able to provide much better care and opportunities for our son that he is simply missing out on right now. Having two working parents outside the home, relying on the grace of others for his care each week, this legislation would allow him to thrive instead of flounder. Please help us and those with profound medical needs who struggle so much to find care workers. We lost our care worker due to behavioral challenges and it's been so difficult. Please put Oregon's disabled children first and vote for SB 538. 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 prioritizes what truly matters: the well-being of Oregon's most vulnerable children. With regards, Meghan, Max and Family