

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

To Whom it May Concern, Why aren't parents of children with needs considered valuable enough to be compensated, instead of those parents going to work to pay for someone else to do the job? 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 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. Caring for a child with complex medical needs is a full-time job, yet the state refuses to compensate them for this labor but would rather compensate a stranger to take care of the child. 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 would give families financial stability while reducing reliance on social safety nets. Thank you, Michelle Fraedrich