

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

To Whom it May Concern, 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 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 would give families financial stability while reducing reliance on social safety nets. I work in early intervention and see this need first hand! So many children that have personal support care hours can not find anyone capable or dependable of caring for them. Parents are doing it all and if they have hours, it is only right that they make a wage in doing so. The hours are approved, but no one is there to do it. Parents can't work away from the home due to this and need to be able to pay all the bills that come with a special needs child. Please consider this as such a human need! With regards, Keri Esser