

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

Dear 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. I have two young children and I know that despite all my efforts to keep them safe, this could be my reality--or any parent's reality. Please don't compound tragedy by condemning caregiver parents to financial ruin and uncertainty. 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. Thank you for your consideration. Laura Labarre