

Submitter: Advocates For Disability Supports
On Behalf Of: Jessica Markham-brink
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

Dear Lawmakers, I am hoping you will support SB 538 (also known as Tensy's Law) this session. The bill 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 many families are forced to live in poverty because the state refuses to compensate them for this labor. 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 prioritizes what truly matters: the well-being of Oregon's most vulnerable children. With regards, Jessica Markham-brink