

Submitter: Advocates For Disability Supports
On Behalf Of: Cassandra
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 minor children, leaving families like mine with impossible choices and limited work opportunities. SB 538 would increase access to Oregon's Children's Extraordinary Needs (CEN) waiver, allowing parents of minors to be personal support workers for their disabled children and ensures this compensation comes from already-obligated funding. Institutional care is not only more expensive but also less effective than home-based care. Oregon spends over \$100,000 per month on state-run residential placements, while paying a parent caregiver a fraction of that cost would allow children to remain in their homes with consistent, high-quality care from those who know and love them most. Tensy's Law prioritizes what truly matters: the well-being of Oregon's most vulnerable children. Sincerely, Cassandra Diza