

Submitter: Advocates For Disability Supports  
On Behalf Of: Ayla Terry-Mitchell  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

Hello Lawmakers, I am asking for your support of TENSY'S LAW (SB 538). 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. 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 offers a fiscally responsible approach that prioritizes both budget efficiency and better health outcomes. As a community Mental Health provider I saw so many parents in poverty struggle to find trustworthy and reliable care for their disabled children, and this change would make an enormous and positive impact on our community. Thank you for your consideration. Ayla Terry-Mitchell