

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

Dear Lawmakers, Please vote YES on 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. 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 is a simple solution: allow parents to be paid caregivers, ensuring that children receive the care they are entitled to while keeping them in the homes they know and love. Sincerely, Thai Barlow