

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

To Whom it May Concern, Please lend your SUPPORT to Senate Bill 538, or "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. Tensy's Law 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 has a legal and moral obligation to ensure that children with disabilities receive the care they are entitled to. The state already assesses the number of care hours a child needs, yet it consistently fails to meet these obligations due to workforce shortages. Tensy's Law prioritizes what truly matters: the well-being of Oregon's most vulnerable children. Oregon already lags in so many areas when it comes to our children, including education and mental health. This would be progress to help our youngest and most vulnerable constituents. Let's actually put families first. With regards, Rachel Knighten