

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

To Oregon Lawmakers: I am hoping you will support SB 538 (also known as Tensy's Law) this session. 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 would give families financial stability while reducing reliance on social safety nets. Thank you for your consideration. I work in schools with disabled kids and see so many parents who have to quit their jobs in order to provide adequate care for their disabled kids- Oregon owes these families a chance to at least survive- if not thrive. Let's do better!!! Leslie Talarico