

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

To Oregon Lawmakers: Please vote yes on Senate Bill 538, also known as Tensy's Law. My daughter, Juniper, has permanent intellectual and physical disabilities including daily catastrophic seizures. It has been incredibly challenging to find quality care for her. I remember asking her social worker early on, "How are we going to afford if one of us has to quit our jobs to stay home with ever? We can't afford a full time nanny." Her response is one that haunts me: "You should probably downsize. People make sacrifices for their children." 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. Yours, Hailey Adkisson (Juniper's Mom)