

My name is Jenny Eckart Hoyt, and I am the Portland mother of an amazing daughter who is eight years old. Winnie has Cerebral Palsy, deaf/blindness, epilepsy, and Global Developmental Delay. She is non-speaking, a wheelchair user, and requires exclusively one-on-one care. My hope for Tensy's Bill being passed is that we come off of the wait-list for the CEN Waiver, and she is able to choose her parents to fulfill a portion of her attendant care hours.

As parents, we know our children best, and our care is the gold standard. The point of SB 91 (now called the Children's Extraordinary Waiver) was to allow us the CHOICE and freedom to use the hours that are allocated to our children through meticulous, frequent, and sometimes heartbreaking assessments in whichever way works best for our child. Passing Tensy's Law (aka SB 538) will allow all of our children with the highest medical or behavioral needs access to their most qualified caregivers; their parents.

Oregon touts itself on a state with the ideology that children with disabilities should be with their community and not institutionalized. I fully agree, except Oregon is only achieving this on the backs of parents who are doing this labor unpaid. Trying to balance unpaid caregiving with working outside the home causes burnout, mental health problems, and physical injury. Being paid for your labor, as it turns out (with the pilot program of allowing parents to be paid caregivers during the public health emergency) came with excellent outcomes for those of us lucky enough to participate. People finally had the bandwidth to seek out, hire, and train new caregivers to help with their children as participants surveyed reported that they INCREASED their utilization for outside caregivers during the program. We shared the workload and were able to take better care of our children and ourselves, had decreased burnout, and most importantly our children thrived.

I believe the interpretation for the budget for SB91 has not been done in good faith by ODDS. Legislators were under the impression that the \$3 million they allocated would be for the INCREASE that paying parents would cost the state, NOT the entire budget for the program. This has caused the program to be painfully small, and it will not serve people in a meaningful way with a cap of 20 hours per week. Every child who is eligible for the CEN Waiver should be able to choose their parents to fulfill their hours. No more hoops or limitations. Tensy's Law should pass with bipartisan support. It is a testament to family-first priorities and the dignity of being paid for your labor on the right, and for protecting the civil rights of minorities and supporting the most vulnerable citizens on the left.

Please pass Tensy's Law unanimously.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Jenny Eckart Hoyt
St. Johns, Portland