

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

Hello Lawmakers, I support Senate Bill 538, aka "Tensy's Law." This bill proposes an increase in access to Oregon's Children's Extraordinary Needs (CEN) waiver. For those families desiring to accept the responsibilities and sacrifices of providing home based care for their severely disabled child, placing their child in an institution is seen as a heart wrenching failure . Unfortunately, the lack of home based pediatric medical services and the tremendous financial and time demands required to support a family, and meet the medical demands of child with a disability, sometimes leaves no other choice. Senate Bill 538 offers a responsible and cost effective solution addressing the financial and medical needs of the child, while supporting the emotional stability of the family. For those families committed to home based care of their child, institutional care is not only more expensive but also less effective than home-based care. Oregon spends over \$100,000 per month on state-run residential placements, while paying a parent caregiver a fraction of that cost would allow children to remain in their homes with consistent, high-quality care. Tensy's Law would give families financial stability while reducing reliance on social safety nets. I strongly support the adoption of SB538. Sincerely, Dr. Frank Andrews Frank Andrews