

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

Dear Lawmakers, I am asking for your support of TENSY'S LAW (SB 538). The bill 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. Our daughter, Abigail who was adopted by our family through the Oregon Foster Care system has FASD, ADHD and an Intellectual Disability. She needs constant care, including help with daily activities, emotional regulation, and making safe choices. The lack of sufficient caregiving support leaves us struggling to keep up with these demands, even though the system has recognized her needs and awarded hours that simply cannot be filled. I urge you to prioritize Tensy's Law and ensure that it not only promises hours on paper but delivers the full support our children need. We need a system that works in practice, not just in theory. Thank you for your time and your consideration of this crucial matter. Kind Regards, Susan Mittelstrass
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