

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

To Whom it May Concern, 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. 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 provides an immediate, no-cost workforce solution by allowing parents-who are already trained, qualified, and committed-to provide this essential care. From: Wendy Niskanen