

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

To Oregon Lawmakers: Please lend your SUPPORT to Senate Bill 538, or "Tensy's Law." 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. Caring for a child with complex medical needs is a full-time job, yet many families are forced to live in poverty because the state refuses to compensate them for this labor. A staggering 75% of these families rely on public assistance, even though two-thirds say they could leave at least one assistance program if they were enrolled into CEN. Tensy's Law would give families financial stability while reducing reliance on social safety nets. My son was born with Cerebral Palsy. He struggled to be able to walk and talk but he accomplished this by the age of 5. Around the time he turned 7 years old he developed uncontrollable seizures and has since lost most of his ability to walk, talk and he is fully incontinent. My wife and sons mother has not been able to work since he was born due to his complex medical issues. This would be life changing for our family and for my son as she is his best caregiver. Yours, Jacob Utterback Jacob