

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

Dear Lawmakers, 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. SB 538 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 offers a fiscally responsible approach that prioritizes both budget efficiency and better health outcomes. With regards, susan