

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

To Oregon Lawmakers: Please vote YES on Tensy's Law, SB 538. 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. 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 offers a fiscally responsible approach that prioritizes both budget efficiency and better health outcomes. With regards, Michele Hunter