

Submitter: Advocates For Disability Supports
On Behalf Of: Kristen Pittenger
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. 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 provides an immediate, no-cost workforce solution by allowing parents-who are already trained, qualified, and committed-to provide this essential care. Yours,
Kristen Pittenger