

Submitter: Advocates For Disability Supports
On Behalf Of: Balu Natarajan
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. 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. Oregon's homecare workforce shortage is well-documented. Over 90% of families report they cannot find enough caregivers to fill their authorized hours. This shortage is even more severe in rural areas, where specialized caregivers are virtually nonexistent. Tensy's Law is a simple solution: allow parents to be paid caregivers, ensuring that children receive the care they are entitled to while keeping them in the homes they know and love. With regards, Balu Natarajan