

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

To Oregon Lawmakers: Please vote yes on Senate Bill 538, also known as Tensy's Law. 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 offers a fiscally responsible approach that prioritizes both budget efficiency and better health outcomes. My daughter has consistently been failed by nursing agencies and personal support workers. They show up to train, realize how fragile she is and then never come back. Over and over we've experienced this situation. I simply cannot work outside the home due to her numerous weekly, sometimes multiple daily, appointments. Not to mention if she gets sick we could easily end up in the hospital. Paying me as her caregiver gives her the best care possible since I have become the number one expert on her and her unique needs. Just this past week our case manager at her pediatrician's office said, "Wow, until you sit down and catalog everything she's been through you just don't realize." She is their only 5a ONA child in the entire practice. Please help my daughter and our family by allowing parents of minor children to be paid the same as parents of adult children. Sincerely, Katie Reding