

Submitter: Jessica Farley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

My name is Jessica Farley, I am the parent of a minor child with Autism who is eligible for CEN. We are currently several hundred spots away from eligibility. I find it incredibly frustrating that my child who is 5b has 240 hours of eligibility per month that go unused because we are at a level of support that no agencies can support. In the last 6 years I have had one and a half hours of support that were covered. During the pandemic I was a paid caregiver in the same role I am in every day for my child. My child will turn 18 this year at which time I qualify to be her paid caregiver. My child is unable to be alone at any time and requires substantial care. It's ridiculous to me that in under a year she is eligible both for social security and for us to be paid parent caregivers but at 17 is unable to access what the state of Oregon has determined are necessary support hours that cannot be filled due to a shortage of workers without a change in funding. Please increase the funding for the program and don't let other children go without care. The employees willing to do the care for our children are not qualified, we as parents are the only ones willing and qualified to do the work.