

Submitter: Jane Mulholland
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

I am contacting you to express my strong support for SB 538: Relating to in-home care for minor children with disabilities; declaring an emergency.

I have worked with children with disabilities and their families for more than 50 years in the states of Arizona, Oregon and Washington. I have seen first hand the alarming lack of respite and daily care providers, and the impact this has on our most vulnerable children--those with developmental disabilities and acute/chronic behavioral health or medical needs.

There is a clear solution to this shortage, and it is one that many other states have enacted with great success. The answer is to pay parents to provide these services. Parents are the experts. They have an intimate knowledge of their children's needs and how best to provide the required support.

Not only would this bill provide for children to have their needs met by those most qualified to do so, there should be little, if any, fiscal impact to the state as monies are already allocated to provide these services. This is a win/win for children, parents/family members, and Oregon.

As this bill moves through the legislative session, and potentially to the House, I would be happy to have you share my support as part of the record.

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