

Submitter: Hannah Grist
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

My name is Hannah (Corvallis OR), and I am writing today in strong support of SB 538, which would allow parents to be paid caregivers for their disabled minor children. As a parent and member of the Oregon community, I urge you to pass this bill to ensure that all eligible children receive the care they need while making the best use of existing state resources.

This bill is budget-neutral. The state already allocates home care hours to these children, but many families cannot fully utilize them due to a severe workforce shortage and the complex needs of our children. As parents, we are already providing this care—often at the cost of our own careers and financial stability. SB 538 does not ask for new funding; it simply allows families to be compensated for the work we are already doing. The state has already allocated funds to pay caregivers, yet it does not allow parents to receive the same payment for providing the same care.

Many of us have had to leave the workforce to care for our children. Without this support, families are forced into financial hardship, increased stress, and even institutionalization risks when in-home care cannot be sustained. Paying parents as caregivers is not just a lifeline for families—it is a cost-effective, logical solution that ensures Oregon’s most vulnerable children receive the care they are entitled to.

I urge you to pass SB 538 and remove this unnecessary barrier. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Hannah Grist
Corvallis OR