

Submitter: Terri Moore
On Behalf Of: SB538
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

As the grandmother of a medically complex grandson, Henry, I see first hand the time, care and attention these children need. Every moment is a challenge that few among us could meet. It is literally life and death every day due to the nature of these children's birth traumas or unknown genetic inheritances. If you spend time watching the parents of these high needs children it is abundantly clear that they know best how to manage the day to day challenges, medical emergencies, communication limitations and physical care required. It takes an extraordinary amount of time to accomplish the activities of daily living for their children. These parents should be allowed and encouraged to provide the highest level of care available to their child. Parent caregivers for children with very high needs, behaviorally and medically, can provide the best care and should be paid by DHS for attendant care.

Most importantly the funds have already been allocated by the state for non-parent caregivers. This bill is budget neutral, there will be no additional cost to allow parent caregivers. It simply shares the responsivity of care for this population of high needs children, allowing parents, the best caregivers possible, to participate as paid caregivers. And ensures that the children receive the care they need. I support SB 538 because it makes sense, is budget neutral and fair. Please pass SB 538.