

Submitter: Hilary Nichols
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

Dear Senate Committee on Healthcare,

I write in support of SB 538 Tensy's Law, because every child deserves to get the medical and social support necessary for a healthy life, and parents who are already providing those supports for their disabled children deserve to be compensated for their labor. SB 538 Tensy's Law 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. The proposal ensures budget neutrality, saves the state money, avoids costly legal risks and fulfills our promises to our state's most vulnerable residents.

As a Health Equity Community Organizer at a Community Health Center in SE Portland, OR, my professional expertise leads me to believe that SB 538 Tensy's Law will bring significant advances to health equity in our state and solve multiple systemic problems (i.e. lack of caregivers available to children with complex medical needs, and parent burnout on providing care without support).

I urge you to approve SB 538 Tensy's Law, because we can create a support system that works for all!

Sincerely,

Hilary Nichols