

Submitter: Theresa Jahangir

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

Dear Legislators,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to you today to emphasize the critical need for fully funding attendant care services for children with disabilities and expanding the Children's Essential Needs (CEN) waiver to cover all eligible children in Oregon. As you may know, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) has presented its budget for the upcoming biennium, and while there are many necessary priorities to consider, I strongly urge you to ensure that the needs of children with disabilities are fully addressed in this funding.

Attendant care is a lifeline for many families who have children with disabilities. For these families, access to appropriate care can make the difference between a child being able to remain at home with their loved ones or being placed in an institutional setting. The current funding is not sufficient to meet the growing needs of children who rely on these essential services.

Furthermore, expanding the CEN waiver to include all eligible children is a step that can greatly enhance the quality of life for these children and their families. Many children who would benefit from the waiver currently do not have access to the services they need because the waiver is limited in scope. Expanding the waiver will provide critical services such as attendant care, home modifications, respite care, and more, allowing children with disabilities to thrive at home and in their communities, instead of being forced into institutional settings.

The importance of this issue cannot be overstated. We have an obligation to ensure that every child in Oregon, regardless of their disability, has the opportunity to grow, learn, and live in the most supportive and inclusive environment possible. Expanding the CEN waiver and fully funding attendant care services is a step toward fulfilling this promise.

I respectfully request that you advocate for increased funding for attendant care and for the expansion of the CEN waiver to ensure that all eligible children with disabilities can access the care and services they deserve. Your leadership and commitment to this issue will have a lasting positive impact on the lives of children with disabilities and their families across our state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your support

and to seeing Oregon continue to lead the way in supporting children with disabilities.

Sincerely,
Theresa Jahangir,
Portland, Oregon