

My name is Alicia Ibaraki and I live in Tualatin, Oregon.

I am writing in support of SB538 (aka 'Tensy's Law') and strongly urge the Joint Ways & Means Committee to schedule SB538 for a hearing and to pass the bill onto the full Senate.

I recognize that the fiscal attached to SB 538 is a challenge. A March 20, 2025 analysis by the Health Policy and Analytics Medicaid Division of the Oregon Health Authority (included below) demonstrated **reduced medical service utilization by children who are part of the CEN program compared to their waitlisted peers**. Given all of these children qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, reduced medical services utilization represents a savings to the State of Oregon. Salaries to parent caregivers as part of CEN are in place of salaries that would have been paid to other direct service professionals, so this does not cost Oregon additional money. Additionally, the temporary waiver that allowed parents to be hired during the pandemic demonstrated that families were able to leave other social services when compensated for their labor. Again, this saves the State of Oregon money.

A single expenditure to parent caregivers will reduce the need to pay a third-party caregiver, save on Medicaid expenses, and reduce the need for social services. At a time when Medicaid and social services are being reimagined and federal dollars need to be stretched more than ever, this just makes fiscal sense. SB 538 is a solution to multiple problems.