

## OREGON FAMILY TO FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER

DATE: April 14, 2025  
TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Tamara Bakewell  
Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center  
RE: SB 538, Tensy's Law

My name is Tamara Bakewell, Principal Investigator of the Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center (F2F). Our F2F is a small, federally funded and peer-run program that supports families of children and youth with special health care needs. Over the last 14 years our team of Parent Partners have spoken to hundreds of families who qualify for Oregon's Children with Exceptional Needs Program.

The CEN program has been a good start at solving a long-standing problem in Oregon. It has provided some relief for some families. **We urge Oregon to take the next step: support and fund Tensy's law.**

**Without Tensy's law, more than 1500 Oregon children cannot access their *promised Medicaid services*. These services have been promised to families for many years; however *they have never been utilized* due to the insufficient, and sometimes unreliable, attendant care workforce. Without Tensy's law, families will be forced to consider out-of-home placements.**

The advocates who have worked for years on this subject deserve our thanks. They have thoughtfully and thoroughly 'pulled back the curtain' on the systemic, fiscal, and personal realities of families caring for children with extreme caregiving needs. Enacting SB538 will correct these past inequities.

Thank you,



Tamara Bakewell, MA, PI  
Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center  
503-494-0865