

Submitter: Brianna Wilson Green  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 538, which would allow parents of children with complex medical needs and disabilities to be paid as caregivers, just as the state would pay any other caregiver.

As a parent of a child with complex conditions, I can attest that this type of caregiving goes far beyond typical parenting. My spouse and I have effectively become trained nurses — we swap out G-tube ports, check capillary refill, listen for aspiration, and provide countless other specialized care tasks. While we have been fortunate to also have amazing outside caregivers, the reality is that my child qualifies for a high level of service that could not be effectively delivered by a rotating staff of providers.

The current system creates an unsustainable situation for families like mine. As parents, we are the most attuned to our child's needs, yet providing intensive care restricts our ability to do other work. Many families face extreme financial hardship simply because their child requires round-the-clock specialized care.

As Tobi Rates, Executive Director of the Autism Society of Oregon, so clearly stated, "If the state will pay anyone but a parent to care for our children, and if the state will pay parents of adult children, why aren't we willing to pay parents of minor children?"?? The money to provide this care already exists in the budget. SB 538 would not create new expenses, but would simply allow for more efficient and effective allocation of existing resources while providing much-needed financial stability to families caring for children with complex medical needs.

Advances in medicine have dramatically improved the health and well-being of children with complex medical conditions. We should ensure that they can also receive the care they deserve.?? I urge you to support SB 538.

Sincerely,  
Brianna Wilson Green