

Submitter: Rebecca Coon
On Behalf Of: SB 538
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

****Testimony in Support of SB 538****

Chairperson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Becky Coon, and I am writing in strong support of SB 538. I speak not only from my personal experience as the child of parents with disabilities but also as a Life Skills teacher who witnesses daily the challenges families face when caring for individuals with significant disabilities.

I have seen firsthand how parents—many of whom work full-time, often in physically demanding jobs—struggle to meet the needs of their disabled children. These are not ordinary caregiving tasks. The needs are intense, continuous, and highly specialized. It is emotionally and physically exhausting, and yet these parents shoulder this responsibility day after day with little to no outside help.

In theory, outside assistance sounds like a solution, but in reality, finding qualified, willing help is almost impossible. Many agencies cannot staff providers who are trained or able to handle the level of behavioral, medical, and personal care needs required. Even when they can, turnover is high because the work is so demanding. The intimacy and trust required to properly care for these individuals cannot be overstated, and families often find themselves left with no choice but to handle it themselves—at the cost of their own health, financial security, and emotional well-being.

SB 538 recognizes this reality. It offers a lifeline to families who have been left to navigate an overwhelming system alone. It acknowledges the dignity of the work these parents are already doing and ensures that they receive the support they desperately need and deserve.

I urge you to pass SB 538, not just for the sake of these families, but for the sake of justice, compassion, and common sense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Becky Coon
Lifeskills Teacher
Eugene Oregon

