

Submitter: Daniel Pagan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello,

Oregon is facing an extreme caregiver shortage. Parents of children with the most complex and severe medical and behavioral needs have been left in crisis. Without adequate caregiving help we have been forced to quit or greatly reduce our work outside of caring for our disabled child. Some have had to resort to placing their child in an institutionalized or hospital setting. It's damaging to families and so much more expensive for the state when this happens.

Allowing the budget for SB 538 is not allotting more moneys, it is literally following through and allowing a program that the state has already created and established necessary for these most severely disabled children to be protected and care for. It's ensuring that a portion of this support actually goes to these kids instead of being siphoned to other programs because the state knows there are no caregivers outside of the family in existence.

Please help Oregon join the other states on the right side of this issue in protecting their most vulnerable disabled children while solving an issue of workforce shortage all at the same time.

We appreciate your understanding of the dire consequences of this bill not being passed.

Dan Pagan