

Submitter:

Janice Morrell

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB5006

Hello,

I am a grandmother of a child with severe medical and behavioral challenges. My daughter has had to give up her career despite her love for it because the love for her daughter is greater and there are no caregivers available, especially for the level of care my granddaughter requires. She is aggressive, has seizures, PICA, will elope and needs help and supervision 24 hours a day.

I ask that you please pass Tensys Law—a bill that demonstrates Oregon's moral commitment to protect its most vulnerable children.

These are children require constant care, often complex, often lifesaving. Thankfully Oregon has committed to keeping children in their homes and out of institutions, but the state has failed to give families the tools they need to make that possible.

SB 538 is a solution already allowed under federal Medicaid guidelines. It would let Oregon pay parents to provide the care they're already giving—care that would be reimbursed if delivered by anyone else. More than 20 states already do this, but Oregon lags behind.

Right now, families are being asked to do the impossible: leave the workforce, provide 24/7 medical care, and survive on hope alone. This bill provides a path forward. It gives families a chance to stay together, children to grow in loving homes, and parents the ability to deliver without falling into poverty.

If Oregon claims to value equity, inclusion, and family preservation, then it is time to act like it. It is not enough to say we care about vulnerable children—we must fund the care they require and remove barriers that harm the very families we claim to support.

SB 538 is a practical, humane, and fiscally responsible step toward fulfilling Oregon's promises.

Please pass it—and let Oregon finally show up for its most vulnerable children in the way they deserve.

Thank you for your service and support,

Jan Morrell