

Submitter: Paige Hall
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
Testimony in Support of SB 538 – Tensy’s Law

Submitted by Paige Hall

Co-Chairs, Members of the Committee,

My name is Paige Hall, and I am writing in strong support of SB 538, also known as Tensy’s Law. This is not a partisan issue—it is a matter of common sense, economic responsibility, and human decency. As a mother of a disabled child, I am urging you to pass this critical legislation that would finally allow parents like me to be hired as care workers for our children with the most complex needs.

My son is autistic, non-speaking, and has drug-resistant epilepsy. He requires care that is specialized, adaptive, and constantly responsive to rapid and unpredictable changes. This is not casual or occasional caregiving—this is a full-time, high-stakes, professional-level job that requires medical knowledge, behavioral training, and most importantly, emotional consistency.

I’m up throughout the night and early mornings, responding to seizures-sometimes finding my son face-down in a pillow, terrified I’m too late. I have to monitor his breathing, reposition him, and stay awake long after he falls back asleep to make sure he’s safe.

It is gut-wrenching to watch your child lose pieces of himself. After a seizure, he might lose sense of time or memories, his ability to communicate, executive functioning or even parts of his personality. These aren’t minor setbacks, they are episodes of functional brain damage. This means his needs shift dramatically, sometimes overnight. The level of support he requires for daily living tasks can change by the hour. I am the one constantly reassessing, adapting, and intervening with skill and love. An outside of home caregiver cannot keep up with these changes, and often, cannot even be found. I am the most trained, qualified, consistent, and most reliable caregiver he will ever have. And yet, under current law, I cannot be compensated for this labor.

SB 538 is vital to protecting the core services that Oregon’s most vulnerable children rely on, ensuring they receive the support they need without interruption. By maximizing every dollar and focusing on strengthening existing programs, it safeguards long-term budget stability and prevents wasteful spending. It also prepares Oregon to weather future financial uncertainties by preserving critical

reserves and maintaining flexible resources. Above all, this legislation makes smart, targeted investments where they are needed most — protecting the health, safety, and future economic success of our children, and securing a stronger, more resilient Oregon for generations to come.

My child and so many others deserve to have their care needs met by someone who understands them deeply and can provide high-quality, professional, loving support. Please pass SB 538 and allow Oregon's children the care they are legally entitled to and morally owed.

Thank you for your dedication to Oregon's children.