

Submitter: Jennifer Murphy  
On Behalf Of: SB - 538  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5547

Families in your districts all across Oregon are currently facing significant challenges as we navigate the complexities of securing essential HCBS services for our children. You are all fully aware of these issues, and for years now families have highlighted the workforce shortages that exacerbate them.

Tensy's Law represents a vital step toward providing essential entitlement supports for children with medical and behavioral fragility. Your constituents are counting on you to act decisively and to represent their needs regarding their children's care.

The benefits of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) are profound. These services enable families to receive care in a familiar environment while ensuring that their children's specific needs are successfully met. Lack of access to these services not only diminishes the quality of life for our children and has negative impacts on them but it also places immense stress on our entire family unit.

#### Benefits-

1. Personalized Care: HCBS provides services tailored to the individual needs of each child, allowing caregivers to design a care plan that addresses medical, developmental, and behavioral challenges unique to their situation. This flexibility ensures that children receive the most relevant and effective support.
2. Familiar Environment: Care provided at home allows children to receive support in a familiar and comfortable setting. This can significantly reduce anxiety and stress, making it easier for children to engage with services and adapt to their care plans.
3. Family Involvement: HCBS encourages family participation in care, enabling parents and siblings to play an active role in the support process. This involvement not only strengthens family bonds but also empowers families by giving them the tools and knowledge to care for their child effectively.
4. Enhanced Quality of Life: Access to HCBS can greatly improve a child's quality of life. Services like therapy, skill development activities, and social engagement opportunities help children reach their fullest potential, contributing to their overall well-being and happiness.
5. Reduced Institutionalization: By providing services in the home and community, HCBS reduces the need for institutional care, which can be isolating and detrimental

to a child's development. This fosters a more inclusive society where children can thrive among their peers.

6. Cost-Effectiveness: HCBS can be more cost-effective than residential or institutional care. Providing support in the community often leads to better outcomes for children, reducing the need for more intensive and expensive interventions later on.

7. Accessibility to Resources: HCBS helps connect families with vital local resources, such as support groups, educational programs, and professionals, making it easier for them to access comprehensive care and information within their community.

8. Social Integration: These services promote social interaction and community engagement, helping children build friendships and connections with peers. These social skills are essential for their emotional development and overall integration into society.

9. Holistic Development: HCBS focuses on the child's overall development—physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially—ensuring a well-rounded approach to care that fosters long-term health and happiness.

10. Empowerment of Families: Finally, HCBS empowers families by providing them with the support they need to advocate for their children. Equipped with resources and knowledge, families can better navigate the complexities of the healthcare and educational systems.

Please ensure families receive the support they desperately need. The highest level of care children are selected by SB 91-2023. Please fulfill the promise of SB-91 to these kids. Promises made should be promises kept. Filling Medicaid-authorized care hours with trained family caregivers would be going in the right direction.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Murphy  
Winston, OR