

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

My name is Patrick Murphy, and I write to you as a concerned advocate for the families of Oregon, families who are currently navigating immense challenges to secure the essential services our children desperately need. This letter comes from a place of love, understanding, and determination. The realities we face are daunting, and yet, they inspire us to take action.

As you know, workforce shortages are exacerbating the struggles parents like me endure every single day. It's heartbreaking to watch our children not able to get caregivers when help is within reach but just out of grasp. With your support, however, parents have the power to be part of the solution. Now more than ever, we urge you to act to create a better future for our children.

Tensy's Law is more than mere legislation; it represents a lifeline for children with medical and behavioral complexities and their families. I implore you to recognize that your constituents—parents, caregivers, and children—are counting on your advocacy to access the care that is crucial for their well-being. The clock is ticking, and we eagerly await your immediate support.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) offer irreplaceable benefits, allowing our children to grow and thrive in environments that feel safe and familiar. The lack of access to qualified professionals only makes this uphill battle more overwhelming. There are days when it feels like an insurmountable struggle, but with hope and your decisive action, we can change this narrative.

Imagine a future where every child receives the support they need, where families do not feel isolated or abandoned in their time of most need. Investing in Family Caregivers and retention is not just a policy shift; it's a heartfelt commitment to our children's futures.

Your advocacy and understanding can transform our communities, allowing families to embrace joy rather than despair. Every child deserves a chance to flourish, to reach their dreams, and with your help, we can make this a reality.

In closing, I urge you to stand alongside us in support of Tensy's Law and access to Home and Community-Based Services. Your commitment to these families is a commitment to hope, healing, and a brighter future for our children.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your attention to this vital issue. I am hopeful for your positive response and your action on behalf of the families you serve.

With sincerity and hope,

Patrick Murphy