

Submitter: Cassandra Diza

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5547

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 538, known as "Tensy's Law," which would allow the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to compensate parents for providing in-home care to their minor children with significant developmental disabilities or complex medical needs.

As a parent of a child with profound disabilities, I have firsthand experience with the difficulty of securing consistent, qualified in-home care. Due to a shortage of trained caregivers, families like mine are often left to provide, and facilitate, this care ourselves. SB 538 directly addresses this issue by allowing parents to be paid for the essential care they already provide. This not only recognizes the vital role families already play in facilitating positive outcomes for disabled children, but also helps prevent families from being forced into poverty for prioritizing their most vulnerable member's needs. Families should never have to choose between their child's well-being and economic survival in Oregon.

Furthermore, allowing parents to be paid caregivers can lead to cost savings for the state. In-home care is generally less expensive than institutional care, and by supporting families to keep their children at home, Oregon can reduce reliance on more costly out-of-home placements. I urge you to pass SB 538 and fulfill Oregon's commitment to supporting children with disabilities and their families. By doing so, we can ensure that these children receive the care they need while recognizing and supporting the invaluable role their parents play.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Cassandra Diza
Milwaukie, Oregon