

Submitter: Shawnee Camp

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5547

To Oregon Legislators,

I'm writing to ask for your strong support of Senate Bill 538—Tensy's Law, a bill that holds deep meaning for families like mine across Oregon.

My 5-year-old daughter Nora has CHARGE syndrome, a complex and rare condition that requires round-the-clock care. Through the SB 91 CEN Program, I was finally able to be recognized and compensated for the care I already provide every day. It was a lifeline for our family—and a recognition that the work of caregiving is real, essential, and deserving of support.

Now, SB 538 seeks to expand that opportunity to more families—specifically those with children in the 5M and 5B service groups. These families are caring for children with significant medical, developmental, and behavioral needs, and they too deserve the chance to be present, involved, and financially supported without being forced to sacrifice everything else.

Importantly, this bill is not asking for new or expanded services. It's about delivering on what is already promised. Every year, the state adjusts the budget based on actual in-home service usage versus projected costs—this is known as a Current Service Level (CSL) Adjustment. When more in-home hours are used than anticipated, the budget is adjusted accordingly—not because services increased, but because actual costs were higher than projected.

Tensy's Law should be treated the same way. Paying parent caregivers is not an increase in services—it's about recognizing who is already delivering those services and ensuring families actually receive the support that's budgeted for. We're not asking for more—we're asking for what's already been committed, to be delivered fully and fairly.

But for this bill to succeed, it must be fully funded. Without adequate funding, many eligible families will remain unsupported, and the intent of Tensy's Law will fall short.

I urge you to support SB 538 not just with your vote, but with your voice and advocacy for the funding needed to implement it as part of Oregon's true current service level. This is an opportunity to stand with families who are doing their very best in challenging circumstances—and to make Oregon a place where no caregiver

is left behind.

Thank you for your time and your public service.

Sincerely,
Shawnee Camp