

Submitter: Paige Hall  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

My name is Paige Hall, I'm a registered Oregon voter and here to talk about SB 91. SB 91 is a program that allows parents to be paid caregivers to their disabled children.

I ask that you pass SB 91 through the committee.

I ask that you create a bridge program using general funds to continue paying parent caregivers working under the PHE until SB 91 passes so those families are not thrown into crisis come May 11.

I ask that you increase the 3 million dollar budget. Without a larger budget, this program will help very few children, regardless of the eligibility described in the bill and leave these families in a state of crisis and living off of state assistance programs.

I ask that you add the ability to use the funds from other programs that would have been spent on these children and families, such as K plan, to fund SB91.

I understand that Ways and Means is also considering HB 2457, which would tie DSP wages to 150 percent of minimum wage. The fiscal analysis states that it will cost \$325 million general fund (\$921 million total fund). These bills are trying to help similar populations. Please consider tying the funding together for SB91, as it should be.

This program has and will continue to change lives for Oregonian families experiencing disabilities. For my personal story it changed my non verbal autistic and severely epileptic child's life for the better. Before the program they had unreliable, inconsistent and under qualified caregivers. The stress it put on my child affected his health(resulting in monthly hospital visits or more), it affected their ability to be included in the community and my ability to provide a stable source of income, food and housing without relying on state assistance.

With having his parent as his paid caregiver he has had a consistent and reliable source of safe and qualified care. Their physical and mental health has improved resulting in no hospital visits and better inclusion in the community. I am able to provide a stable source of income, food and housing for myself and child through this program without state assistance. This program through SB 91 costs tax payers less money in the short and long term. This program will help Oregonian families experiencing disabilities go from barely surviving to thriving.