

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 continuation of a temporary program that allows parents to be paid caregivers to their disabled children.

I ask that you pass SB 91 through the committee.

I ask you increase the 3 million dollar budget to 10 million so that it may reach more than a couple hundred families out of the thousands of families that qualify for in home attendant care hours.

You add the ability to use the funds from other programs that would have been spent on disabled children, such as K plan and CIIS Waivers, to fund SB91. if you put the same hour caps and restrictions on parent caregivers that you do on other caregiver it would stretch budget dollars to help more families.

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 they serve similar and some of the same populations.

This program has and will continue to change lives for Oregonian families. 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 me as his paid caregiver he has had a consistent, reliable source of safe and qualified care. His 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 lose the risk of homelessness 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.