

Submitter: Jennifer Murphy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure: SB1565

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Jennifer Murphy. I am in Support of SB 1565. This bill is very near and dear to my family. The passing of SB 91 last session created a very thought-out foundation for Oregon to move forward as a paid parent state for minor children with developmental disabilities. I am so thankful to all the work and all the people who contributed to SB 91 passing.

With that said, we have a major problem. When I participated in the Work group session ODDS held last August, it was heart breaking to learn that the funding came overwhelmingly so short from the legislature and would not serve all the targeted children that SB 91 deemed eligible. To put this into perspective, out of around 1400 known eligible children, the work group was informed that only between 36-86 children total could access the waiver depending on the hour cap chosen due to the funding. The task asked of the work group felt nearly impossible and so wrong.

We have a chance here to repair this inequality with SB 1565 and make the needed services reachable to the children who have little to no access to the average utilization of home and community-based services. This bill would offer the children the opportunity to utilize a percentage of their Medicaid entitlement. I genuinely see that advocates have worked extremely hard to find a middle ground path and are in pursuit of equity. I am really proud of fellow advocates for the creation of this bill.

In closing I would like to point out the ODDS is in a very difficult situation and needs the Legislature to fix this unjust inequality with funding to be able to do the right thing for these eligible kids chosen by SB 91 and offer equal opportunity and access to this life line.

Please successfully move this bill out of committee for Oregon's most vulnerable children.

Thank you,
Jennifer Murphy