



Oregon Pediatric Society

A Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Incorporated in Oregon

DATE: February 12, 2024

TO: Senator Patterson, Chair
Senator Hayden, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Health Care

FROM: Adebimpe Adewusi, MD, FAAP
Medical Director, CARES Northwest

SUBJECT: Support for SB 1565

I am a pediatrician and the medical director of CARES (Child Abuse Response and Evaluation Services) Northwest, one of the oldest children's advocacy centers in the country, and the largest in Oregon. I live in a single-income household given my daughter's high needs.

My husband has not been able to hold a full-time job since my daughter came home from the NICU. Briefly during the pandemic, when he received income as a paid caregiver, I saw how my husband had a sense of fulfillment knowing his time at home was contributing to our family income. As my daughter's tracheostomy and gastrostomy tube needs become more stable, her autism and behavioral needs have increased, with her still needing one-on-one or care from both of us. This is exhausting for family members, and it is difficult to keep nurses and caregivers long-term in our home because the majority of the time is spent managing my daughter's tantrums and meltdowns.

All children with special medical and behavioral needs deserve continuity of care. This has become almost impossible with home nursing shortages. Funding SB 1565 can be budget-neutral for the State, and it would financially help so many families—especially those that are low income—who are struggling to find consistent home care. OPS supports this bill. We urge you to vote yes and move it out of this committee.