

Submitter: Advocates For Disability Supports  
On Behalf Of: Melanie Fitzgerald  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB538

Dear Lawmakers, Please vote YES on Tensy's Law, SB 538. Although parents of disabled adults can be paid caregivers, this option isn't available for children, leaving many young families with impossible choices. SB 538 would increase access to Oregon's Children's Extraordinary Needs (CEN) waiver; allow parents of minors to be personal support workers; and ensure this compensation comes from already-obligated funding. Institutional care is not only more expensive but also less effective than home-based care. Oregon spends over \$100,000 per month on state-run residential placements, while paying a parent caregiver a fraction of that cost would allow children to remain in their homes with consistent, high-quality care. Tensy's Law would give families financial stability while reducing reliance on social safety nets. Thank you for your consideration. Melanie Fitzgerald