

Submitter: Cassandra Diza
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am writing to urge legislators to expand and increase funding for Tensy's Law (SB 538), which expands access to paid caregiving for parents of children with severe disabilities. This legislation provides critical support to families who are uniquely qualified to care for their medically fragile and/or behaviorally challenged children, often around the clock. Without adequate funding, many families are forced to choose between financial stability and their child's well-being.

Tensy's Law addresses this gap by allowing parents to be compensated for the essential care they already provide. Currently, the program is limited, serving only a fraction of eligible families. By broadening access and removing these restrictions, Tensy's Law would not only provide financial relief to families but also ensure that children receive consistent, high-quality care from those who know them best. This approach is both compassionate and cost-effective, as it leverages existing Medicaid funds to support home-based care, reducing reliance on more expensive institutional alternatives

The only reason Tensy's Law, SB 538, is considered to have an additional cost is because of the state's failure to provide a functional home care system. By refusing to recognize parents of minors as part of the home care workforce, the state is making it harder for children to get the support they need. This isn't about politics. It's about common sense. Paying parents for the care work they do in lieu of their own careers is a simple, cost-effective solution to many problems. It ensures children receive consistent, high-quality care from the people who know them best and stabilizes families in their own homes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cassandra Diza (mom and caregiver of Toby)