

Submitter: Jenn Dolan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5547

I urge you to support the removal of the ban on parent caregivers in Oregon, a policy that has long hindered families from providing the best possible care for their children.

The Current System Is Inadequate and Unfair

This policy creates an unjust disparity: parents of adult children with disabilities can receive compensation, while those caring for their minor children cannot. This inconsistency is not only illogical but also detrimental to the well-being of children who require specialized care.

Parents Are the Most Qualified Caregivers

Parents possess an unparalleled understanding of their child's needs, preferences, and medical history. The intimate knowledge parents have allows them to provide consistent and personalized care, which is often lacking when care is outsourced to external providers.

The Workforce Shortage Is a Crisis

Oregon is facing a severe shortage of qualified caregivers. Many families are left with no choice but to rely on untrained or unreliable individuals, leading to situations where children are placed in unsafe conditions.

Financial Hardship Should Not Be a Barrier

Many families are forced to deplete their savings or forgo essential needs to care for their children. No parent should have to choose between their child's care and their family's financial stability.

My dear friend Kali had unexpected complications during birth of Brooks, her 2nd son and he has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He will need essentially, 24 hour care for the rest of his life. Kali stepped into that role immediately, without a second thought. There has been help along the way but she is his sole care taker and she has put her everything else in her life on hold to fulfill this job. Her hopes, her dreams, her career plans. She needs the state to recognize and acknowledge the time and resources required to be her son's care taker throughout the rest of his life.

Remove the ban!

Thank you for listening to our testimonies