

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee I urge you to support SB 584.

I work with a nonprofit that promotes the inclusion and self-expression of children with disabilities. Much of our programming aims to highlight the power of validating their ideas at a young age, in hopes of creating future self advocates.

Medicaid asset and income restrictions unjustly penalize people with disabilities and contradict the message of obtaining the American dream, as if to say "You can be anything you want to be when you grow up, if you put your mind to it. Except for you. You will lose your healthcare."

People with disabilities have every right to enter the workforce without losing access to healthcare. People with disabilities have the right to save for retirement, like anyone else. People with disabilities have the right to advance in their careers and not fear repercussions from being paid what they are worth. People with disabilities have the right to be productive citizens, not be discouraged from doing so.

This legislation is an important first step that Oregon needs to take to remove this layer of systemic oppression and will help our state achieve its own goal of health equity for all.

Thank you for supporting SB584

Scott Foertmeyer
Multnomah Co. resident and concerned citizen