

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the committee,

SB584 is an important step for those of us in the disabled community. For too long, those with disabilities have had to make the choice between healthcare and career. The system currently in place requires a person with a disability to make under a certain amount of money or risk losing their state provided care. This is at best a major oversight and at worse a tactic to keep people with disabilities at a societal disadvantage. It's unfair to place a value on an individual and by placing an arbitrary income cap on the disabled, it does just that.

It is imperative that we treat the disabled community with respect and not punish them for trying to have a career. By denying healthcare to this group of people, it forces them into a situation where their options are a livable wage (and hope they do not become ill), or exist on a non-livable wage, permitting them to receive healthcare. I personally have had to make this choice. It's not fair. By passing this bill, you are saying and showing that no person should have to choose between employment and their own health.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Floyd Miller