

February 8th, 2023

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Karima Homman-Ludiye

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection www.oregonsci.org

Dear Chairs and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

My testimony is in **support** of SB 576.

I am not a resident of Oregon but live in Clark County, Washington. For the past 6 months I have had the honor of being the Program Manager at Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection, a non-profit organization based in Oregon. I work and interact everyday with my manager, with a team of Community Health Workers (CHWs), with volunteers and with clients who all live with a spinal cord injury. A recurrent theme in conversations is the impact of the asset and income eligibility restrictions on employment opportunities.

I hear reports of people deciding to only take a position part time and live with relatives rather than take the same position as a full-time opportunity as their employer would not offer health insurance to cover their needs and they cannot afford to lose the health coverage provided by Medicaid. I talk with people who prefer to live in a van because they cannot afford to purchase a house. We are in the process of interviewing people with a lived experience of disability for a full-time position. Most of the candidates who would be perfect fits decline the option of being full-time employees so as not to jeopardize their benefits. Not being able to fill this position is directly detrimental to the disability community at large as the role is one of coordinating activities for residents of accessible apartments who live with a disability.

I urge you, for the good of the community we serve, to please support this legislation.

Thank you for taking my testimony into account.

Sincerely,

Karima Homman-Ludiye
Program Manager
Oregon Spinal Cord Injury