



**Oregon**  
Tina Kotek, Governor

**Oregon Department of Human Services**  
**Aging and People with Disabilities**  
Oregon Disabilities Commission  
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Senate Committee on Health and Human Services,

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Lithicum, and committee members, the Oregon Disabilities Commission, and its commissioners write in support of Senate Bill 20.

SB 20 requires the Oregon Department of Human Services to administer a program to provide medical assistance to employed people with disabilities without regard to their income or resources and to allow consideration of income when determining cost-sharing for the program.

Oregon currently has the program known as Employed People with Disabilities (EPD). This program allows people with disabilities to join the workforce while remaining OHP and/or Medicaid eligible by paying a participant fee. Employer insurance, if offered, covers a participant's medical needs, but it does not cover Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS), which are typically only covered under Medicaid OHP. Because many Oregonians with disabilities require LTSS, retaining Medicaid benefits is essential to being able to work and maintain gainful employment.

However, the current iteration of EPD has stringent income and resource limits on it – individuals must not make a gross income of more than roughly \$17 per hour and have no more than \$5,000 in assets. These limits do not allow workers with disabilities to afford things like first and last month's rent, a sudden car issue, the cost of a car, a house, and other essential goods and services needed to build economic prosperity and financial stability. Once a participant surpasses those limits, they are booted from the program. This results in the loss of their OHP/Medicaid coverage for the LTSS needs. To avoid this, Oregonians with disabilities have been forced into under-employment, declining scheduled raises, and in some cases leaving the workforce altogether.

The ODC's mission is to secure economic, social, legal, and political justice for individuals with disabilities through systems change. Senate Bill 20 does

just that by providing meaningful support to Oregonians with disabilities so that they can build economic security and experience health and employment equity. As such, the ODC and its commissioners strongly urge the members of this committee to overwhelmingly support and pass SB20.

We thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration in this most pressing matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Oregon Disabilities Commission

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