

Submitter: Chris Carpenter
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement. I was injured at the age of 18 in an auto accident in which i suffered a spinal cord injury. As a result of this injury, I am now paralyzed and rely on the help of others to survive. Despite the difficulties and obstacles I face on a daily basis, I still yearned to be a productive citizen that contributed to our society. I put myself through college earning a MBA in business and finance with the dream of being able to support myself and not rely on public assistance for my needs. However, in order to be financially independent, I would need to earn around \$3k more per month to pay for my caregivers then a person that doesn't require the assistance I need. If allowed to save and invest as I went to school to do, I could create enough passive income to pay for my caregiver expenses. This is a win for myself and the tax payers of Oregon. The way the system is set up I'm not even given the opportunity to try and get off public assistance. I am urging to please consider removing the income and resource restrictions so people with disabilities can at the minimum have the same freedoms and dignities as any other citizen to manage their own resources. Living with a severe disability is an extremely difficult, lonely life full of obstacles in which every day can be a challenge to just stay one smile away from darkness. Why make it more difficult to ad resource discrimination on top of it? Keeping the resource restrictions guarantees a person with a disability will drain the resources of tax payers as they will never be able to escape the cycle while living just above poverty. There is no incentive to achieve more or reach one's potential if they are always threatened to lose the help they need for simply wanting a better life for themselves and their family like anyone else. In wrapping up. I simply want to be financially independent and to take care of myself and my family with dignity and freedom. Just like those making the decision whether or not I get the same freedoms as they themselves have.