



## CITY OF BEND

February 13, 2025

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Downtown Bend

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### MAYOR

Melanie Kebler

### MAYOR PRO TEM

Megan Perkins

### CITY COUNCILORS

Ariel Méndez  
Gina Franzosa  
Megan Norris  
Mike Riley  
Steve Platt

### CITY MANAGER

Eric King

Senate Committee on Human Services  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB20

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Committee Members,

I write to join the Disability Health & Employment Equity Coalition of Oregon in supporting SB20, a bill to allow more Oregonians with disabilities to keep their Oregon Health Plan coverage while working as part of Oregon's Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) program. This bill would help Oregon to alleviate the catch-22 of disabled Oregonians entering the workforce and, because of current income and asset limits, having to choose between remaining employed or receiving important medical benefits that are part of the reason they can seek employment in the first place.

The City of Bend is committed to accessibility and equity across our city, and we value the voices of our disabled constituents in our local government. We have established and continue to support advisory bodies like our City of Bend Accessibility Advisory Committee and our Human Rights and Equity Commission, who help us in this work. We recognize the importance of and fully support greater opportunity for disabled Oregonians to join the workforce. SB20 is a proven way to increase those opportunities. Please move this policy forward so Oregon can help people with disabilities to access good paying jobs that allow them independence and dignity, while still maintaining their access to the services that keep them in good health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "MK", written over a white background.

Melanie Kebler  
Mayor, City of Bend