



# OREGON WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

Feb 12, 2025

HEATHER DESART  
*OWP Chair*  
Northwest Oregon Works

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Chair Lieber and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

ERIN CARPENTER  
*OWP Treasurer*  
Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

On behalf of the **Oregon Workforce Partnership (OWP)**, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of **Senate Bill 20**.

BRIDGET DAZEY  
Clackamas Workforce Partnership

As a statewide coalition representing Oregon's local workforce development boards, OWP is committed to advancing policies that remove barriers to employment and create equitable pathways to meaningful work. **SB 20 addresses a critical challenge for Oregonians with disabilities—the risk of losing essential healthcare benefits when seeking employment.** This bill establishes a program that allows employed individuals with disabilities to maintain Medicaid coverage, regardless of income or resources, ensuring that access to healthcare is not a deterrent to workforce participation.

ASHLEY ESPINOZA  
Lane Workforce Partnership

HEATHER FICHT  
East Cascade Works

ANDREW MCGOUGH  
Work Systems Inc

**Oregon is facing a tight labor market, and the need for skilled, diverse talent has never been greater.** Individuals with disabilities bring valuable perspectives, skills, and experience to the workforce, yet too often, systemic barriers prevent them from fully engaging in meaningful careers. By eliminating the fear of losing healthcare coverage, SB 20 empowers these individuals to pursue stable employment, increasing their independence and overall quality of life.

KIM PARKER-LLERENAS  
Willamette Workforce Partnership

HEATHER STAFFORD  
*OWP Vice-Chair*  
Rogue Workforce Partnership

Furthermore, this legislation aligns with the **Oregon Health Authority's strategic plan to eliminate health inequities by 2030** and supports broader efforts to build a more inclusive workforce. Ensuring continued access to healthcare for working individuals with disabilities will not only strengthen our communities but also support businesses in meeting their workforce needs.

SARA STEPHENS  
Southwestern Oregon  
Workforce Investment Board

Workforce development is about **ensuring that every Oregonian has the opportunity to succeed**—and SB 20 moves us closer to that goal. We urge you to support this bill and take a meaningful step toward a more inclusive, equitable, and responsive workforce system.

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# OREGON WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to creating opportunities for all Oregonians.

HEATHER DESART  
OWP Chair  
Northwest Oregon Works

Sincerely,

**Georgia Conrad**  
Executive Director  
Oregon Workforce Partnership

ERIN CARPENTER  
OWP Treasurer  
Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

BRIDGET DAZEY  
Clackamas Workforce Partnership

Sincerely,

ASHLEY ESPINOZA  
Lane Workforce Partnership

Georgia Conrad  
Executive Director

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