

Submitter: Michelle Sheppard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

People with disabilities deserve the opportunity to work, contribute to their communities, and achieve financial independence without the fear of losing essential healthcare services. Medicaid provides critical support, including medical care, assistive devices, and in-home services that enable individuals to live and work independently. However, outdated income restrictions have forced many people with disabilities to choose between working and keeping their health coverage. The new program ensures that employment is not a barrier to receiving necessary medical assistance, allowing individuals with disabilities to pursue careers while maintaining access to the care they need.

For many individuals, Medicaid is not just a safety net—it is a lifeline that supports their ability to work. Without Medicaid, people with disabilities may struggle to afford healthcare, assistive technology, or personal care attendants, making it difficult or impossible to maintain employment. This program acknowledges that financial stability and access to medical care should not be mutually exclusive. By allowing people with disabilities to continue receiving Medicaid regardless of their income or resources, the program empowers them to seek meaningful employment, contribute to the economy, and enhance their quality of life without jeopardizing their healthcare.

This initiative is a critical step toward true inclusion and economic equity. People with disabilities deserve the same opportunities to work and thrive as anyone else, without fear of losing essential medical services. By supporting policies that separate employment from healthcare eligibility, we create a system that values the contributions of all individuals, regardless of their physical or cognitive challenges. Declaring this an emergency and implementing the program immediately ensures that people with disabilities are not forced to make the impossible choice between their health and their livelihoods.