

Submitter: Amanda Orozco
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the Committee,

My name is Amanda Orozco, and I am here to express my strong support for Senate Bill 20, which seeks to create a program to ensure that employed individuals with disabilities can access Medicaid benefits without being penalized based on income or resources.

I have a close friend with a rare genetic condition who was forced to leave Oregon because she could no longer afford to live here while balancing the high cost of healthcare. She moved to Idaho, where the financial burden is less overwhelming. If a solution like this bill had been introduced sooner, my friend would still be here, able to live and work in Oregon with the support and dignity she deserves.

Senate Bill 20 is a game-changer for people with disabilities, offering them the chance to live and work in the state they call home without having to worry about losing their healthcare or facing financial stress. By ensuring that income is not a barrier to receiving necessary healthcare, this bill helps individuals with disabilities continue contributing to society, maintaining both their jobs and their health.

This is more than just a bill; it is a lifeline that reduces the heavy economic strain many people with disabilities face. It is a crucial step toward making Oregon a more inclusive and supportive state for everyone.

I wholeheartedly support this bill and urge the committee to prioritize Senate Bill 20 and pass it swiftly so that no one else has to make the life shattering choice between their health and their livelihood.

Thank you for your time and consideration.