



February 14, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Kelsey Box

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection - www.oregonsci.org

Disability Health & Employment Equity Coalition - www.disabilityequitycoalition.org

Dear Chair Senator Gelser Blouin, Vice Chair Senator Linthicum, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am providing this testimony in support of SB 20.

I was in a car accident in 2013 leaving me paralyzed. For 8 years I did not work and lived with my parents due to the cap on income. As someone who needs these benefits and needs income to live, this SB would change the lives of people with disabilities and be able to thrive.

Becoming a Community Health Worker for Oregon Spinal Cord Injury has helped me gain back independence and to help others gain theirs back as well. As a CHW we are the support to others with spinal cord injuries new and old. We are advocates for them and organize events for people with SCI's to build a community.

Living with an SCI or any disability is extremely hard, dealing with the medical expenses and also not being able to provide for yourself or your family is discouraging. With this bill people can be able to afford both. Please take into consideration of those that are still able to work to take care of themselves and also be able to keep their benefits so they can live.

Thank you for your time!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "KBox". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Kelsey Box
Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection
Community Health Worker

