

February 14, 2025

**Senate Committee on Human Services
SB20**

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

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 20.

My brother has lived with a Spinal Cord Injury for almost 25 years. For the longest time he was unable to work due to the fear of losing his caregiving hours. I've seen him work tirelessly with his DHS Caseworker and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to reenter the workforce. He is doing meaningful work in our community, and I hope one day he can earn a decent wage for it that allows him to help support his family. The current limitations for Employed Persons with Disabilities have forced him to accept below average wages in order to retain his caregiving support. He still continues to work from his power wheelchair and deserves the chance to advance at his job.

I've watched my brother overcome the challenges of living with a spinal cord injury, and I urge you to support Senate Bill 20. It would allow him to earn a competitive wage without the constant fear of losing the caregiving hours he depends on.

Many people with disabilities across Oregon are in similar situations. Please allow them the opportunity to build careers and plan for their futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paige Villarreal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paige Villarreal