

February 15, 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.

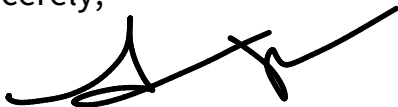
My brother-in-law has lived with a spinal cord injury for nearly 25 years. For the majority of that time, he has been unable to work despite his strong desire to better provide for himself and his family. The fear of losing his caregiving hours, which he so direly needs, has been a constant concern. I have seen him work tirelessly with his DHS caseworkers and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to reenter the workforce. The work, dedicated hours, and education he has invested to truly make a difference in our community are so impactful. He deserves the chance to earn a decent wage without the risk of losing his benefits, allowing him to better support his wife and his elementary-aged son, who enjoys playing piano and other instruments but is often limited by financial stress.

The current limitations for Employed Persons with Disabilities have forced him to accept below-average wages in order to retain his caregiving support. He continues to work from his power wheelchair and deserves the opportunity to advance in his job and accept a higher wage. Supporting Senate Bill 20 will allow not only him but others like him throughout Oregon to earn a competitive wage without the constant fear of losing the caregiving hours they depend on.

Please allow them the opportunity to build their careers, futures, and legacies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Villarreal', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean Villarreal