

Submitter: Courtney Livaudais
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,

I am writing to express my strong support for Oregon Senate Bill 20, which seeks to eliminate asset and income restrictions for employed individuals with disabilities. As an Oregonian, an occupational therapist, and the spouse of an employed person with a disability, I have seen the significant challenges that these restrictions present for Oregonians living with disabilities.

In my professional capacity, I have had the privilege of working with numerous individuals with disabilities, supporting them in achieving their goals and living more independently. The current asset and income restrictions often act as barriers, preventing these individuals from fully participating in the workforce and achieving financial stability. These restrictions hinder the progress and self-sufficiency that they have worked so hard to attain.

My spouse's experience highlights the urgent need for change. Despite his dedication and hard work, the current restrictions have limited his ability to save for the future, invest in his education, and ultimately improve his quality of life. These limitations not only affect personal growth but also place undue stress on our family as a whole.

Senate Bill 20 represents a significant step towards ensuring that all Oregonians, regardless of their abilities, have the opportunity to thrive and participate in the workforce, and our community. By eliminating these outdated policies, we can empower all individuals by providing equal opportunity to work, support themselves, and participate in their communities.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 20 and to champion the rights of individuals with disabilities in our state. Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable Oregon for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Courtney Livaudais
OTD, OTR/L, IBCLC, PMH-C