

Dear Senator Gelser Blouin, Representative Nosse, and Senator Broadman -

I am writing in strong support of the Disability Health & Employment Equity Coalition of Oregon's efforts to create equity for workers with disabilities, specifically regarding the proposed changes to the Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) program. I understand this involves eliminating the income and resource eligibility thresholds for the program, as addressed in previous legislative sessions (SB584 - 2021, SB576 - 2023).

The current EPD program, with its restrictive income and asset limits, creates a significant barrier for Oregonians with disabilities seeking to advance their careers and achieve financial independence. It forces individuals to choose between essential healthcare benefits and career advancement, trapping them in a cycle of poverty and dependence. As a [Your Affiliation - e.g., concerned citizen, business owner, community leader], I believe this is unacceptable.

Removing the income and resource limits will empower individuals with disabilities to pursue meaningful employment, contribute to our economy, and improve their overall well-being. This change will not only benefit individuals with disabilities but also strengthen our communities and reduce the long-term burden on the state. Allowing individuals to work, earn, save, and access employer-sponsored health insurance while retaining access to vital long-term supports and services is a win-win for everyone.

I urge you to support this crucial policy change and help create a more equitable and inclusive Oregon.

Sincerely,

Karima Homman-Ludiye