

Submitter: David Shaw

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

The expansion of the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program (EPD) is a necessary and overdue step toward true workforce inclusion. Many individuals with disabilities are highly skilled, passionate professionals who are eager to contribute but are forced to limit their careers due to restrictive income caps. By removing these barriers, this policy allows them to build meaningful careers, take on leadership roles, and achieve financial stability without sacrificing essential healthcare and in-home care services.

Beyond the direct benefits to individuals, this policy strengthens the workforce and benefits the economy. When people with disabilities are empowered to work, they pay taxes, contribute to Medicaid buy-ins, and often receive employer-sponsored healthcare—reducing the financial burden on state programs. Additionally, studies show that higher incomes lead to better health outcomes, decreasing long-term healthcare costs and improving overall quality of life.

This change is not just about economic impact—it is about fairness and opportunity. People with disabilities deserve the same chance to thrive as anyone else, and removing income and resource limits ensures they no longer have to choose between financial security and necessary care. A stronger, more inclusive workforce benefits us all, making Oregon a leader in equity and smart policy reform.

I fully support this bill and look forward to the Oregon Legislature passing it. Let's support our disabled friends with the help they need to survive and live.