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Senate Committee on Human Services

Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

Service Employees
International Union
Local 503

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My name is Rachel Hansen, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of SEIU 503 in support of SB 20. Our union represents thousands of Homecare Workers (HCWs) who provide essential support to seniors and adults with physical disabilities in home and community settings.

Many Oregonians with disabilities rely on Medicaid (OHP) and long-term services and supports (LTSS) to survive. They want to work, contribute to society, and achieve independence, but fear losing Medicaid benefits if their income or assets exceed strict limits. The current Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) program allows Medicaid beneficiaries to work and retain benefits by “buying in” with a portion of their earnings. However, income limits are set at 250% of the Federal Poverty Level, and asset limits are capped at \$5,000—limits that are too low in today’s economy. Even entry-level jobs or promotions can push individuals over the threshold, forcing them to choose between work and essential healthcare.

Employment provides financial independence, dignity, and inclusion, but many individuals with disabilities face barriers due to the risk of losing Medicaid. SB 20 addresses this by removing income and asset limits, allowing individuals to work, save, and pursue higher-paying jobs without penalty. It also coordinates benefits with employer-sponsored insurance and promotes financial independence by excluding earnings in separate accounts. This creates a supportive framework that empowers individuals with disabilities to thrive while maintaining access to healthcare.

SB 20 is a critical step toward equity and inclusion. It allows individuals with disabilities to build careers, contribute to the workforce, and live with dignity, while reducing long-term Medicaid costs and adding skilled workers to the economy. SEIU 503 strongly supports SB 20 and urges its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

In unity,

Rachel Hansen
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