

Submitter: Kayla Neely

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB20, a bill that seeks to mandate the Department of Human Services to establish a program providing medical assistance to employed individuals with disabilities, regardless of their income or financial resources.

As a family member of someone with a spinal cord injury, I have seen firsthand the challenges that come with the current income and asset restrictions. My father sustained a T5 spinal cord injury in 2008, and throughout the years, our family has struggled with the financial and emotional toll of limited access to medical assistance. Living in Hillsboro, Oregon, I have personally witnessed how these restrictions negatively impact individuals with disabilities and the broader community. My father has faced significant health issues and periods of unemployment or unstable job situations, which often left him without adequate coverage. The constant fear of losing benefits has influenced critical decisions in our lives—from medical care to career choices—forcing us to prioritize financial stability over well-being.

Passing SB20 would help relieve much of the stress and uncertainty families like mine experience due to the shortcomings of our current healthcare system. The ability to change jobs, face unexpected health issues, or deal with employment transitions without the looming threat of losing medical coverage would make an immeasurable difference.

I urge the committee members to support SB20 and help bring necessary reform to our healthcare system. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kayla Neely  
Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection