



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Department of Human Services

*Office of Aging and People with Disabilities*

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-10

Salem, OR 97301



Date: February 18, 2025

TO: The Honorable Sara Gelsner Blouin, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Jane-ellen Weidanz, Deputy Director of Policy  
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SUBJECT: Senate Bill 20

Chair Gelsner Blouin, Vice Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee, I am Jane-ellen Weidanz, Deputy Director of Policy in the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities (APD), Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). I am here to testify on Senate Bill 20, which would require ODHS to remove income and resource limits for eligibility for the Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) program. The department is neutral on SB 20.

The EPD program has been an option for people with disabilities in Oregon for over 20 years. EPD provides medical coverage and access to long-term services and supports for people with disabilities who are working. Currently, the EPD program has income and resource limits that exclude individuals from Medicaid. These limits force individuals to choose between work and critical benefits.

Currently, EPD excludes unearned income from eligibility (such as social security income), but counts earned income through employment. Earned income limit is 250% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Because there are additional exclusions applied, this means that as of February 2025, an individual cannot earn more than \$6,361. EPD's countable resource limit is \$5,000. However, EPD consumers can

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have additional savings such as retirement savings and other savings for disability related expenses.

SB 20 would create more options for obtaining and maintaining eligibility for the EPD program. Specifically, SB 20 would:

- Eliminates income and asset caps;
- Expand the program to individuals under the age of 18; and
- Allow the state to serve those who become “Medically Improved”, i.e., no longer meet the Social Security Administration’s definition of a disability but still have a severe impairment.

Most notably, participants in the EPD program would benefit by working to earn and save more without worrying about losing medical coverage, or any long-term services and supports if they qualify for them.

The department anticipates that SB 20 would have a fiscal impact. APD is still working on the fiscal impact but expects to base the fiscal on the number of individuals with a disability who were denied Medicaid due to being over income and/or over assets multiplied by the percent of current EPD consumers who are receiving long term services and supports. We expect the Oregon Health Authority to also have a fiscal.

SB 20 requires ODHS to take all necessary steps so that the program is operational no later than July 1, 2027. For the 2025-2027 biennium, ODHS would work in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to request all necessary changes to the State Plan to implement these program changes.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 20, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jane-ellen Weidanz

Deputy Director of Policy, Office of Aging and People with Disabilities