

Submitter: Nathan Sheppard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

Under our current system, success can actually mean failure for one of our most challenged communities. Senate Bill 20 is an important step in addressing the shortcomings of this system that unfairly threatens employed individuals with disabilities who have worked hard to improve themselves, their families and the communities in which they live. Reaching the highest levels of success is disincentivized when an individual knows that the safety net required for them to thrive will not only be removed but will also cost them everything they've worked for.

Instead of being a barrier, SB 20 allows Oregon to celebrate the hard work and dedication exemplified by working individuals with disabilities who have labored and thrived despite their challenges. Working individuals with disabilities should not have to make the choice between contributing to life and society through career success or living in mediocrity for fear of the eventual loss of their lifestyles.

SB 20 will have an outsized positive impact on employed individuals with disabilities, and I strenuously support its passage.