

Submitter: Matthew Howard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

I am writing to express my strong support for SB20.

As a resident of Oregon and someone living with a spinal cord injury, I have personally witnessed the devastating impact that income and asset restrictions have on disabled individuals and our community as a whole. Currently, people with disabilities who wish to work and contribute to society face the impossible choice between earning a livable wage and maintaining access to essential medical care. I have seen friends forced to limit their income or even quit their jobs just to retain the Medicaid benefits that cover life-sustaining services such as personal care assistance, medical equipment, and prescription medications. This system punishes ambition and independence, trapping individuals in financial insecurity.

SB20 would eliminate this harmful barrier, allowing people with disabilities to work, thrive, and participate fully in society without fear of losing their critical healthcare coverage. By passing this bill, Oregon can take a meaningful step toward equity and economic self-sufficiency for disabled individuals who want to contribute to their communities.

I urge the committee members to support the passage of SB20. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew Howard
Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection