

Dear Senators,

As a high-level quadriplegic, father of two, and public speaker, I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 20. This crucial legislation addresses the significant challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in accessing essential healthcare services, a matter of great personal importance to me.

Current regulations create an untenable situation for people with disabilities like myself. These flawed rules force us to choose between providing for our families and receiving necessary medical care. For example, the current limit of \$5,000 in *total assets* effectively prevents me from building any financial security for my family. Every dollar I save beyond that limit, whether it's in savings, a retirement account, or even something as basic as a reliable vehicle, jeopardizes my access to critical healthcare benefits. This is a devastating Catch-22. How can I plan for my children's future, save for emergencies, or even consider long-term care needs when I'm constantly walking a financial tightrope? This is not a choice anyone should have to make. It severely limits my ability to contribute to my community and undermines my efforts to build a secure future for my children.

Senate Bill 20 offers a vital solution. By allowing individuals with disabilities to use their hard-earned money for essential expenses without jeopardizing their access to healthcare, this bill would be transformative. It would empower us to live more independently, contribute more fully to society, and have greater control over our own lives. This change is not just about healthcare; it's about dignity, opportunity, and the fundamental right to pursue happiness.

As a public speaker, I share my story of hope, resilience, and determination to inspire others and advocate for positive change. I believe that supporting Senate Bill 20 is a powerful way for elected officials to make a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities. It's a chance to move beyond mere words of support and take concrete action to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 20. This legislation represents a critical step towards creating a future where all individuals with disabilities can thrive. It's an opportunity to empower us, strengthen our communities, and build a truly inclusive society for all.

With gratitude,
Ron Heagy