

To: Senate Committee on Human Services

My name is Kayla Moore, I'm a Central Point, Oregon resident and I'm writing to express my strong support for SB20 that seeks to remove the income restriction for Medicaid eligibility for employed long-term disabled individuals. **SB20 represents a significant step towards promoting equality, independence, and economic contribution among disabled members of our community.**

One of the primary benefits of SB20 is that it mitigates the fear of losing vital benefits that many disabled individuals face as they strive to advance in their careers. The current income restrictions often serve as a barrier, preventing talented and hardworking individuals from reaching their full professional potential. By removing these restrictions, we allow disabled persons to pursue growth and advancement in their careers without the constant worry of being penalized for their success.

Furthermore, as disabled individuals are permitted to earn more without losing Medicaid eligibility, they will contribute more substantially to our economy. Increased income results in higher tax contributions, including payments into Medicaid and other social services. In addition, the proposed buy-in option allows these individuals to contribute a fraction of their income to Medicaid, ensuring that they still pay into the system while retaining essential health benefits. This not only benefits the individuals themselves but also strengthens the financial foundation of the services that support our communities.

It's essential to recognize that disabled individuals should not be held back from achieving their career aspirations due to an unfair system that penalizes them for their efforts. Everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive and be self-sufficient, and SB20 is a monumental stride towards ensuring that disabled individuals have the same opportunities as their non-disabled counterparts.

In conclusion, the removal of income restrictions for Medicaid eligibility for employed long-term disabled people, along with the buy-in option, is a progressive and compassionate change that will lead to numerous benefits for individuals and the broader community. I wholeheartedly support SB20 and urge my fellow citizens and legislators to recognize its importance and impact.

Thank you for considering my views and I am hopeful you will vote to support SB20.

Sincerely,

Kayla Moore

Kbmoore88@gmail.com

541-292-0199