

Submitter: Julieanne Livaudais  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of OR SB20, which establishes a critical program allowing employed individuals with disabilities to maintain Medicaid coverage without income or resource limitations. I support the Disability Health & Employment Equity Coalition of Oregon who represents stakeholders personally invested in the health and prosperity of the disability community.

For too long, Medicaid's eligibility structure has forced people with disabilities to choose between employment and essential healthcare. This creates a cycle of poverty and exclusion, undermining both economic independence and overall well-being. OR SB20 provides a long-overdue solution—allowing people to work, contribute to their communities, and maintain access to the healthcare they need to thrive.

Medicaid itself recognizes the benefits of such programs. Research has shown that the program is not just good for beneficiaries and employers; it is also good policy for Medicaid. An analysis of expenditures and services used showed Medicaid Buy-In participants incurred lower annual Medicaid costs than other adult disabled Medicaid enrollees. In a University of Kansas study, findings indicated Medicaid Buy-In participants had a better quality of life while Medicaid expenditures were less.

By passing OR SB20, Oregon has the opportunity to create real, meaningful change. This policy supports economic self-sufficiency, promotes workforce inclusion, and ultimately reduces overall Medicaid costs. It is a smart investment in the future of our state and a step toward true equity for Oregonians with disabilities.

We urge your support for this bill and appreciate your commitment to a more inclusive and prosperous Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Julienne Livaudais