



February 19, 2025

To: Chair Gelser-Blouin, Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Em Braman, Executive Director, The Arc Oregon

RE: Support for Senate Bill 20

Chair Gelser-Blouin and Committee Members,

On behalf of The Arc Oregon, I am writing today to express our **support for SB 20**. For over **70 years**, The Arc Oregon has provided advocacy, support, and services to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We envision a world in which all people have the support and opportunities they need for personal development and independence, interdependence with family and friends, and inclusion in the community.

As an organization that promotes and defends the human rights of people with I/DD including the ability to be employed as well as an employer of people with I/DD we see SB 20 as a highly important bill. This bill will eliminate one of the barriers people with disabilities face in employment and accessing medical assistance. Many people have provided testimony on how SB 20 will have a positive impact on themselves or a loved one. I am here to provide input from the employer's point of view. We employ multiple people with IDD within our organization and know of other organizations that do the same. We work in collaboration with our employees to ensure that they are maximizing all benefits available to them to be employed and earn as much as they can without losing access to medical assistance benefits. Yet still, they are limited in their employment in order to maintain access to the medical assistance they need. It is frustrating as an employer to have employees who could contribute more to our organization and want to contribute more but are prohibited from doing so due to limits around their income in maintaining benefits. While we, along with other organizations, offer medical coverage to our employees standard medical coverage does not cover the in-home attendant care supports that many people with IDD require.

Please support **SB 20** and eliminate this barrier to full employment for people with disabilities.

*Achieve with us.*

