

Submitter: Rebecc Williams
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB20

I am a policy professional, professor, accessibility consultant, and a paralyzed wheelchair user who received my wheels due to a driver who smoked pot at the beach and drove too fast through an RV park killing my best friend and paralyzing me. This man didn't lose his license, or spend a single day in jail. Along with stronger enforcement of marijuana issues in this state. There needs to be stronger pay equity and support systems for people with disabilities such as the wage laws and healthcare laws especially given we have additional care and extensive healthcare bills. I was put in the place of choosing between my healthcare and my job or losing my healthcare and going on disability that was going to take 2-3-4-5 years to get payments and waiting on Medicare healthcare access and losing treatment and recovery time while being a solo parent of 2 young boys. My out of pocket healthcare bills in 2024, for a minimum level of care was \$16,000.00- and my body needed more treatments, but I had to put off my healthcare and recovery. Oregon has approximately 846,000 people with disabilities. OR needs to stand for increased pay wages, the ability to save for and have max HSA funds, have pre and post tax retirement accounts, save for college, and support our children the way able bodied parents are. NO ONE should not have to choose between their healthcare or their career/job, being able to put food on the table, have a home, and a wheelchair accessible car to access work & healthcare. Please ensure the Board reviewing equity is comprised of Oregon residents with disabilities of varying ages and conditions. The system is broken it's time to innovate and redesign accessibility solutions - Be a leader in functional practical designs to solve our needs expeditiously.