

To: Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the Senate Committee on Human

Services

From: Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities

Re: Senate Bill 20 – Removing Income/Asset Caps in the Employed People with Disabilities Program

**Date:** February 19, 2025

Dear Chair Gelser Blouin, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

On behalf of the Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities, we urge your support for Senate Bill (SB) 20. Our campaign's core values center on uplifting independence, choice, and dignity for Oregon's seniors and people with disabilities. If passed, SB 20 would embody all of those values.

SB 20 makes changes to the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program (EPD), a Medicaid program administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services. The EPD extends healthcare and, for those who are eligible, long-term services and supports, to Oregonians earning up to a maximum of \$6,361 in monthly income and holding no more than \$5,000 in total countable assets (such as bank accounts).

SB 20 would remove the earned income and asset caps from the EPD, making this program available to more working Oregonians with disabilities who require healthcare and/or long-term services and supports available through Medicaid. Many employer-provided health plans do not include insurance coverage for long-term services and supports, a necessity for Oregonians with disabilities who require help with activities of daily living. For these Oregonians, the current program makes Medicaid healthcare and long-term services and supports available, so long as income and assets fall within existing caps.

Removing these caps would allow *more* working Oregonians with disabilities to earn higher wages, save more money for emergencies, compete for more advanced roles in their professions, and contribute more wages to our state's tax base, among other benefits, while maintaining their Medicaid. Because giving working Oregonians with disabilities greater freedom to achieve is core to our campaign's values, we hope you will join us in supporting SB 20.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Oregon's Campaign for Seniors and People with Disabilities

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