

Submitter: Austin Scrivner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

I work for Quadriplegics United Against Dependency, Inc. - a Portland-metro based nonprofit that advocates for independence and self-reliance for individuals living with physical disabilities. Since 1975, we provide low-cost, barrier-free housing and 24/7 supportive services that help individuals maintain independence in daily life and the support they need by self-directed care. This style of living can create opportunities for individuals to pursue vocational careers and other pathways living with a disability. Throughout my years at this organization, I have come to understand that income is a barrier in so many ways for individuals with physical disabilities due to income limits and restrictions. Someone receiving Medicaid should not be limited in their income, and be continuously tumbled through the cycle of poverty just so they can afford to live and have access to healthcare. All individuals should have the opportunity to pursue a career and contribute to society without having to worry about their healthcare and access to basic rights. This bill is so important. When we invest into our communities and plant seeds, we can watch a beautiful garden grow.