

April 3, 2025  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee for Human Services  
SB20

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama, and fellow members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

I am providing this testimony in support of SB20 being fully funded within ODHS's budget.. I understand the logistics behind having resource limits for individuals that need long-term care. Unfortunately, the way the current system works is broken for most individuals. I myself am disabled and sufferer from a disease called multiple sclerosis, which has progressed to needing a wheelchair. I was diagnosed in December of 2015. I am very independent and also divorced and raising two kids half of the time on my own. This is not a sob story of what I have to deal with, but just an illustration of what I deal with on a daily basis. From the beginning of my day once I wake up, I need help to get out of bed just to even start my day. This usually entails me having to reach out to somebody in my family that can help me out or also depend on my daughters to be able to help me fight my spasticity, so I can actually get up. The process repeats in order to get me in bed. In itself this starts to become extremely humiliating, there has been multiple times where I have had to reach out to different family members and you can hear the frustration in their response like you have become a burden. This is extremely difficult to handle mentally, and I know it's exhausting on all parties. I have personally been trying to get caregiving services for two years. I have gotten road blocked by the fact that my resource limits are considered too high. I work a part-time job that is 20 hours a week just to be able to sustain living. I truly need the help of the care giving services to be able to help me in and out of bed, and also help me during my daily living and life. It's mentally heartbreaking that I have to have my 10-year-old and eight-year-old daughters act as caregivers sometimes. It's such a young age that this should not even be something on their minds that they have to think about. I and many others truly need caregiving services and have been denied multiple times because of the resource limits. I am now at a point where I have relied on family so much that even calling them they will not answer the phone anymore because they know I need something and it's an inconvenience to them. I can completely understand the emotion behind this for them as well it's hard and there is nothing easy about any of this. I also have to consider how old my daughters are getting. I am only six years away from my oldest being able to drive. I am currently unable to save any money to look forward to providing a first car. I feel that removing the barriers of resource limits could truly help so many but also the individuals and their families. I ask that you please consider removing resource limits from Oregon entirely. I feel that I cannot work a full time job, or actively save money for emergencies. Please allow us the same rights every other individual has, nobody chooses to become disabled.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Cody Guinn  
5419412963