



April 3rd, 2025

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee for Human Services

From: Karima Homman-Ludiye

Oregon Spinal Cord Injury Connection - www.oregonsci.org

Disability Health & Employment Equity Coalition - www.disabilityequitycoalition.org

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.

The current EPD program, with its restrictive income and asset limits, creates a significant barrier for Oregonians with disabilities seeking to advance their careers and achieve financial independence. It forces individuals to choose between essential healthcare benefits and career advancement, trapping them in a cycle of poverty and dependence. As a [Your Affiliation - e.g., concerned citizen, business owner, community leader], I believe this is unacceptable.

Removing the income and resource limits will empower individuals with disabilities to pursue meaningful employment, contribute to our economy, and improve their overall well-being. This change will not only benefit individuals with disabilities but also strengthen our communities and reduce the long-term burden on the state. Allowing individuals to work, earn, save, and access employer-sponsored health insurance while retaining access to vital long-term supports and services is a win-win for everyone.

I urge you to support this crucial policy change and help create a more equitable and inclusive Oregon.

Sincerely,

Karima Homman-Ludiye