

Submitter: Alena Guggemos  
On Behalf Of: SB20  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

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 am the Executive Director of Quadriplegics United Against Dependency, Inc. (Quad Inc.). Incorporated in 1979, we serve extremely low-income, physically disabled adults who rely on wheelchairs for mobility due to conditions akin to spinal cord injuries. Too often in my work, I see the effects that limitations on earning potential have on the overall wellness and personal advancement of individuals with disabling conditions. People who would otherwise have sustaining employment are limited in their options in order to retain the supportive services that allow them to live as independently as possible.

Supporting the rights and independence of adults with disabilities includes removing the barriers preventing them from the same successes and accomplishments that non-disabled adults take for granted. Income restriction is primary barrier.

Regards,  
Alena Guggemos