

April 3, 2025

To: Joint Ways and Means subcommittee Human Resources

From: Neveah Garcia

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama,

I am writing to you today to advocate for my uncle, who is a quadriplegic as a result of an accident he had 25 years ago. Despite his disability, he is one of the most outgoing and hardworking individuals I have ever met. He is dedicated to his job and excels at what he does. However, the current state laws place him in a difficult position.

My uncle is passionate about his work and wants to advance in his career, but he is constantly held back by the fear of losing his eligibility for caregiving and healthcare benefits if his income exceeds the state's required limit. This policy forces him to accept lower-paying jobs just to maintain the critical support he needs as a quadriplegic. It is unfair that someone so educated and skilled, but is disabled and requires assistance must limit their potential and earnings to avoid losing essential benefits.

I urge you to consider removing the income and resource limits by fully funding SB20. This change would allow individuals like my uncle to pursue higher-paying jobs and career advancements without the fear of losing their much-needed support. It would enable them to lead more fulfilling and independent lives while contributing more effectively to society. It would also generate revenue because workers with disabilities pay taxes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neveah Garcia', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neveah Garcia