

April 3, 2025

To: Joint Ways and Means subcommittee Human Resources

From: Theresa Burns

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

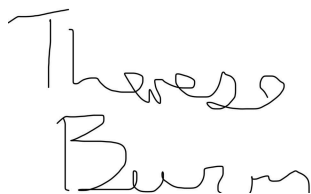
I am writing to express my strong support for the full funding of SB 20 within the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) budget.

My name is Theresa Burns and I'm asking you to consider supporting SB20 by fully funding it. I have been disabled for 28 years and although I am past being able to work, I would love to see this opportunity for younger people on the Employed Persons with Disability Program.

I've had to spend the majority of my adult life, unable to work because I rely on caregivers for my daily needs. If this opportunity would've been available for me, I could've stayed in the workforce for another 20 years. Due to the asset and income limitations that were in place I was unable to save for my future and rely on the lowest amount of Social Security to live. It is a struggle every month and I would've loved the opportunity to have been able to plan better for my future.

Please consider funding Senate Bill 20 and change the lives of individuals with long-term disabilities that rely on care hours to make a competitive wage and save for their future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Burns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Theresa" is on the top line, and the last name "Burns" is on the bottom line, with a large, stylized "B" at the beginning.

Theresa Burns