

April 3, 2025

To: Joint Ways and Means subcommittee Human Resources

From: Jerri Jensen

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.

I am the parent of an adult living with a disability. From a young age my son always had a job and contributed to our household. I was a single mom of 6 wonderful children and things were tight to say the least.

I watched and supported my son after he had a life altering accident that left him a quadriplegic, at the age of 20, that relies on caregivers for every aspect of his daily needs. Our family was blessed that he qualified for Medicaid to receive these benefits. Even though my son is now a power wheelchair user that relies on caregivers, he still has so much to offer the workforce. I have witnessed him not be able to grow in his career as others without limitations are able to. He is not able to receive raises or save for his 8 year old's future needs like a car, college, medical/dental expenses and many other things.

Please consider supporting Senate Bill 20 by fully funding and lifting the income assets and limitations that are currently in place. This would allow my son to continue to grow in a career he's great at. It would also allow him to save for his future, provide for his family, and make a competitive wage.

My story is similar to many other parents of adults living with a permanent disability throughout Oregon on the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerri Jensen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerri Jensen