

Submitter: John Dutt
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 believe people with severe disabilities who can work but still need caregiving support from the state should be allowed to do so. I believe working people with disabilities better provide for themselves and our community when they have access to the care they need without being penalized by inflicting income and asset caps. A working adult should be able to save more than \$5000 without risking losing all of the care and medical support they would need to survive.

One of my co-workers provides invaluable assistance to our community as our ADA Title II and Disability Equity Manager as a full-time employee but can only manage to be employed in this role with the support of home caregivers. Inflicting these income and asset caps would make her continued employment in this capacity impossible. Not being able to continue working in this capacity would actually cost the State much more resources than her continuing to maintain this employment and receive the employer provided benefits.

Thank you for considering my testimony.