

Submitter: Sophie Zagerman

On Behalf Of:

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 provide care for a working person with disabilities, and believe that her work positively impacts the community in numerous ways. At work, she draws on her lived experience and professional expertise to advocate for better accessibility for all members of the community. She educates those around her about disability and accessibility, and brings a multitude of other gifts and skills to her work. Requiring her to choose between the care that allows her to live and the work she does would be unfair and harmful to her and the rest of the community. As an able bodied person, I don't have to choose between having my most basic needs met and working a job I care about. Severely disabled people who can work and wish to, shouldn't have to choose either. I believe working people with disabilities better provide for themselves and our community when they have access to the care they need that does not penalize them by inflicting income and asset caps.