

Submitter: John Curtis
On Behalf Of: SB 20
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

INCLUDE SB 20 IN THE SB 5526 FUNDING BILL.

Like many people with disabilities, I studied hard and learned lots so that I could go to work and contribute to rather than just take from our society. But my business failed because I could not afford to pay for caregiving and health insurance.

Work incentive programs came about to address this dilemma. The incentive lets disabled people keep public services for a small premium, if they go to work. But they get kicked out of the program if they make or save too much. And "too much" is less than what most workers earn at entry level positions. And "too much" is less than a meager bank account balance. So what kind of rational person would choose to forfeit their vital services to work over keeping vital services and not working? Extremely few workers with disabilities earn paychecks large enough to cover the costs of caregiving and health insurance. The dilemma still persists.

SB 20 would fix this work incentive program by removing disincentives. Please include SB 20 in SB 5526 so Oregonians can go to work.

John Curtis