

Submitter: Susan Faulkner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

Support SB20/SB5526

I strongly support SB20 / SB5526 -- the act creates a new program for people with disabilities to have a job and also get Medicaid. This bill is a crucial step in ensuring that employed individuals with disabilities in Oregon can access the medical assistance they need, regardless of their income or resources. I worked for 20 years at Intel with a talented design researcher who is a quadriplegic. He owns his own home and employs around the clock care givers to help him with his daily needs. The low cap on his savings that he must maintain in order to qualify for Medicaid means that if he were to lose his job, he would not be able to afford the assistance he needs in order to live independently. The current cap in savings is a terrible burden on disabled Oregonians who have to choose between employment and receiving the medical care they need for survival. It is cheaper for Oregon if people like my friend are well employed, make a living wage, get health insurance from their employer, than it is for them not to work in order to be eligible for Medicaid benefits. Please pass SB20 / SB5526