

April 3, 2025

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee for Human Services

From: Nathan Norris

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Dear Committee Co-Chairs Campos and Valderama, 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 have worked with and supported the Disability community for 30 years in multiple facets, such as job support, case management, Director of services, and Behavioral supports. I have supported individuals with disabilities in increasing their independence. Within building toward independence, it is important to support individuals advancing their careers and financial freedom and the current environment creates more boundaries and difficulties for individuals with disabilities to achieve their goals.

Removing the income and resource limits would empower individuals with disabilities the ability to fully reach their goals. This would also create the ability for individuals with disabilities to contribute to the economy, improve their well-being, and to be fully embraced within equity and inclusiveness like other communities. For the entirety of my career working in and supporting the disabled community I feel like it has always been overlooked and stigmatized when it comes to independence.

Please support this policy change and allow the disabled community to reach the goals they want to and to create honest equity for them.

Sincerely,

Nathan Norris

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