



April 4, 2025

To: Senator Campos, Co-Chair; Representative Valderrama, Co-Chair; and Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

From: Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition

RE: Senate Bill 20 - Support the Employed Persons with Disabilities Program

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To Co-Chairs Campos and Valderrama and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition (DD Coalition) is a group of approximately 30 organizations across Oregon that promote quality services, equity, and community integration for Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. Our members include the Oregon Self-Advocacy Coalition (a statewide coalition of people with I/DD or “self-advocates”), peer-based family support organizations, support services brokerages, advocacy organizations, and developmental disability providers and the DD Act Network Partners. The DD Coalition previously submitted testimony to the Subcommittee on four funding priorities,<sup>1</sup> but wants to submit additional testimony under separate cover in “support” of Senate Bill 20.

An individual’s pursuit of gainful employment need not come at the cost of losing access to the essential long-term supports they require. For many people with I/DD the choice to work is fraught with the risk of losing access to Medicaid’s Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS). Senate Bill 20 proposes significant improvements to Oregon’s Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) program. Those improvements would make it possible for people with IDD to work, receive employer-provided benefits, and remain eligible for LTSS.

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<sup>1</sup> You can read more about the importance of fully funding Case Management Entities, stabilizing Direct Support Professional wages, supporting existing Regional Family Networks, and promoting Self-Advocacy and Regional Family Network expansion here:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/189948>



Strict asset and income eligibility criteria currently limit how much a person may earn or own to remain eligible for Medicaid benefits through the EPD program. For many people with I/DD that means working is not worth losing Medicaid benefits and the Long-Term Service and Supports it provides.

LTSS include services that allow individuals with I/DD to remain in their homes or other community residential settings. K-Plan services under Medicaid offer attendant services and other community-based supports that help individuals live independently in the community and obtain assistance with activities of daily living. Employment support services like job coaching are also available through the K-Plan in Oregon. Job coaching is a service that provides individualized support to help people with disabilities learn how to perform specific tasks, adjust to a work environment, and develop skills to succeed. It also helps with maintaining employment over time.

Eric Thompson—who advocates in favor of Senate Bill 20<sup>2</sup>—utilized Medicaid services to receive job coaching that played a pivotal role in his workplace integration, ongoing guidance, and job retention. Additionally, Medicaid provided him with access to services that supported his development of the skills needed for independent living. A person with I/DD pursuing employment should not have to sacrifice these essential supports as part of that process. With help in part from Medicaid services, Eric has achieved some remarkable accomplishments, including becoming a marathon runner, author, leader of the Jackson County Self-Advocates, and a dedicated credit union employee for eight years.

Senate Bill 20 would remove the income and resource eligibility thresholds for the Employed People with Disabilities program, so that individuals like Eric can work without worry and achieve their dreams. The DD Coalition supports SB 20, which will allow more Oregonians with I/DD to work, receive employer provided health insurance, pay taxes, and remain eligible for Medicaid and LTSS.

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<sup>2</sup> Eric Thompson's testimony is available through the Oregon Legislative Information System here: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/130504>