

Co-Chairs Campos, Valderrama, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services Committee,

My name is Venice Bailey, I am a disabled college student, and I am writing to advocate that SB20 be fully funded within the ODHS budget. SB20 will allow **Oregonians with disabilities to work, maintain private insurance, and remain eligible for Medicaid coverage** for their health care and long-term supports and services (LTSS) needs which covers specialized services not covered by typical insurers at an affordable rate.

The current income and asset limits in place mean that Oregonians with disabilities must make less than \$18 an hour and have no more than \$5,000 in total savings and assets. This means that Oregonians with disabilities cannot afford things like first and last month's rent, a surprise car payment, or many other basic necessities.

SB20 will allow the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to remove the restrictive income and asset Medicaid eligibility caps for the Employed People with Disabilities (EPD) program. This will allow employed Oregonians with disabilities to pursue career growth that supports health and well-being; people with disabilities will be able to make money to pursue their goals, plan for retirement, engage in family planning, and achieve greater independence.

I'm requesting that the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services Committee support this legislation because I want to be able to live independently from my parents, but without being able to save up money I can not possibly live on my own with enough savings to feel secure for long term planning.

Please support SB20. It will create employment equity for Oregonians with disabilities that ushers in new pathways to prosperity, innovation, and health for Oregon's disabled community.

Thank you!

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