

Submitter: Anne Bellegia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services

Measure: SB576

I am writing in support of SB 576. Qualifying for disability and supportive services at both the federal and state level has become extraordinarily onerous. Those who qualify have significant challenges that create difficulties in finding any employment, much less jobs with pay and benefits that will lift them out of poverty and their reliance on public assistance. Setting income and asset thresholds that trigger loss of critically needed supports may keep disabled individuals from applying for work or if they do work, they may need to forego promotions that would mean losing the supports that enable them to work at their peak level. Passage of the bill benefits all Oregonians by increasing the pool of workers at a time of worker shortages and would support the core premise that all individuals deserve the opportunity to be full members of their community and to help improve their own and family finances.