

Submitter: Amalia Coxe-Trieger  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB576

I am writing in support of SB 576 for the simple reason that I believe access to healthcare should be available to everyone.

I have a very dear friend who hopes to move from Washington to Oregon soon. Last year he survived a drive by shooting which severed his spinal cord, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. He now navigates life with this disability, uses a wheelchair, and is raising a young daughter, while managing chronic pain, and barriers to accessibility. Before he was shot, he worked as a carpenter, and used his body to sustain his livelihood. This friend is an extremely capable and creative person. I hope that if he wants to, he will find a new way to share his talents through meaningful work.

I want Oregon to be a place he will feel welcome, and able to thrive. I can't imagine it will be that, if his ability to receive necessary medical care might be jeopardized by him working.

Not only does Oregon need the disabled community's skills, ideas, perspectives, and expertise in our workforce, people all across the disability/ability spectrum derive a sense of purpose and dignity through working. The connections that are built through work make us all more connected, and resilient. If the state of Oregon forces on its disabled residents a choice between work and access to comprehensive healthcare, we perpetuate ableism, and fail to serve members of our community.

No one should have to choose between working and having their medical needs met.