

Submitter: Anastasia Mathis  
On Behalf Of: Self and DHS Caregiver Consumer Erica DeSilva  
Committee: Senate Committee On Human Services  
Measure: SB576

Please support SB576 in the State of Oregon as many elder and disabled people are trying to continue working in our communities to remain viable and strong contributors to our State Employment. Not only does Title 5 monies allow them opportunity to continue working and paying taxes, but also to continue Social Security payroll contributions that will help them remain vital contributors in our State of Oregon. The 'Ticket to Work' program run by the Social Security Administration allows seniors and Disabled to be gainfully employed without losing their Social Security benefits, which includes Medicaid.

What SB576 will do is only enhancing these two programs, and also supports private employers job opportunities to the Disabled community and into their Senior years. This bill is one of the strongest scaffolding support attempts to keep individuals remaining in our workforce, and provides a better guarantee of long-term employment support for employed individuals in need of it, as well as removes barriers for many who are wanting, trying to get jobs but as yet have not been able to.

Personally, I feel this is the most strategic legislation yet that has been put forward to enhance re-entry of persons who are experiencing a return to the workforce after experiencing a debilitating injury, resulting in a disability - which includes a great number of our returning Veterans who often face rejection or discrimination upon re-entry to civilian life.

To support SB576 - YOU ARE ASSISTING TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT, PROVIDE SCAFFOLDED SUPPORT TO EMPLOYERS, AND ASSIST IN BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS PROGRAMS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE.

THANK YOU!