

Submitter: Ramune Nagisetty  
On Behalf Of: SB 576  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 576 because it promotes equity by including people with disabilities in the workforce. Without SB 576, people with disabilities have a disincentive to work. Today many people with disabilities are afraid to work for fear of losing their Oregon Health Plan and/or in-home care. Yet, people who are working cost less to the system. People who are working often have employer based health care, and they pay income tax on their earnings that helps offset the cost of state benefits. People who are not employed cost the state more money than those who are employed. Furthermore, without SB 576, caps on income and savings relegate people with disabilities to living in poverty.

Many people we know, including you and me, will eventually experience disability, whether temporary or permanent. We need to be more inclusive of the perspectives of disabled people. In the long run, people who are disabled and have opportunities for meaningful careers will naturally be able to grow into management positions and/or political offices where they can have more influence on public policy. I hope that you will help champion SB 576 so that people with disabilities can work without fear of losing benefits and care.