

April 3, 2025

To: Joint Ways and Means subcommittee Human Resources

From: Steve Furst

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the full funding of SB 20 within the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) budget.

Please fully fund Senate Bill 20, which addresses an urgent need to ensure access to Medicaid for employed individuals with disabilities in Oregon. As the Executive Director of a non-profit that serves our disabled community members, I strongly believe that this bill will provide vital support and help empower individuals with disabilities to pursue meaningful employment without the fear of losing access to necessary healthcare services. I've had volunteers that had to turn down paid positions due to the current income and asset restrictions in place for the EPD program.

Senate Bill 20 promotes inclusivity and financial security for individuals with disabilities who wish to contribute to the workforce. The impact of Senate Bill 20 will be profound for Oregonians living with disabilities. It offers them a critical pathway to economic independence, confidence, and opportunity. The implementation of this bill will allow individuals to participate fully in society and contribute to the state's economy, all while maintaining the health care they need to thrive. The passage of this bill is not just a policy change; it is an important step toward ensuring a more equitable society for all Oregonians, regardless of their disability status.

I urge you to fully fund Senate Bill 20 and work towards its swift enactment.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Furst", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Furst
Medford, Oregon

