

That this kind of proposal is even being suggested and getting the point of a hearing is troubling. The lessons of the decline of Portland seemingly have not made their way to Salem. The idea of Magnet States has been around for some time. The studies on the topic look only to the numbers of people, but have not examined severity of those that do move. In other words, the majority of studies have looked to see whether lots of people have moved for welfare chasing, but have not focused on the tipping point to which someone will move. Those that reach a tipping point will be the ones that cost the most to deal with because they are moving specifically for the benefits. In the case of the proposed amendment, this means that the people who will be moving to Oregon for these benefits are the ones who have medical conditions that will cost the most to deal with.

To simply say that magnet affect is not real would ignore the reality of what is going on in Portland currently.

The real question is why are we taking the drastic step to change the state's constitution? Why are we creating severe obligations for the state? Is our state so wealthy that we have money to give away and create a matter of right for people to receive? I cannot imagine a justification for this that does not simply ignore the liberties of the taxpayers. Citizens do not exist for the benefit of other citizens. The purpose of the state government is not to yolk its people, but that is exactly what the impact is of this proposal. It may not be the intent, but it is the impact.