

Submitter: Amy Ultch  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Human Services  
Measure: HB4079

I strongly oppose this legislation. Redistributing wealth from hard-working citizens to low income families is totally unfair and only exacerbates an already growing problem of encouraging poor people to stay poor in order to collect state benefits. I have a hard time believing that anyone who drafted this legislation has ever been on state benefits, or been homeless, or even low income! Because if they were, they would realize there are already plenty of programs in place to help people get job training and financial assistance. I know. I used to be homeless and I went through a job training program and now I run my own business. They would also realize that programs that essentially hand out unearned money are wrought with fraud and more times than not taken advantage of by lazy people who tend to use drugs and alcohol instead of actually spending the money on their families. Enabling people to stay poor is not compassion. Encouraging people to live off of other people's hard earned money does not help them. What actually helps people is when they realize they have to do a little work and change for the better in order to improve their situation. I swear sometimes it seems like the folks who run this state are TRYING to destroy it. You are causing thousands of people to leave Oregon with this out of touch nonsense. It is VERY apparent that anyone who supports this will NOT actually have to deal with the social consequences. Meanwhile, the rest of us live in a dangerous downward spiral of a state where we not only now have to lock ourselves within our own homes but we have to lock ourselves in our cars. You are not helping people when you just give them other people's money and don't make them take a little accountability for their place in life. Sometimes people actually have to struggle a little bit and be inconvenienced in order for them to realize what they need to do. If you don't like living in a capitalist country, you are free to move elsewhere. Or you can cash your next paycheck and go down to the Washington Jefferson Street bridge and distribute it evenly among the people down there and see how many of them use it to improve their lives.