

Dear Task Force Member,

I am a current resident of Oregon and have been since 2001.

I have read the details of the proposed benefits of the system and how the costs are to be paid.

I have grave concerns that we, as a state, will be opening the floodgates for the rest of the country (and the world) to send their sick and dying populations to Oregon.

What mechanisms are proposed to stop foreign nationals from obtaining a tourist visa to come here and have their children born (for free) under this plan?

What is the mechanism proposed to stop gravely ill foreign nationals from coming here legally and illegally to obtain our healthcare benefits?

What provisions are there to deal with US citizens from moving here temporarily for free elective services such as abortions and gender reassignment surgery?

What provisions are there to handle the influx of a very aged population, who on average require high levels of medical care?

Would we become a dumping ground for the parents of people that can no longer afford to care for them?

Would every child with special needs throughout the country be eligible for care once they arrive?

I can see conflict arising from attempting to enforce either short or long term residency requirements.

Many will want an exception for them or their loved one.

The cost of all of the above would be enormous.

With no copays, how would we prevent hypochondriacs and drug addicts from turning our hospitals into their favorite bed and breakfast?

What is to stop them from just showing up and complaining about something being wrong with them for a bed and a couple of free meals?

How do you expect to attract and retain health care providers if they are not satisfied with the reimbursement rates?

What if the amount of care required by the population, both existing and incoming, greatly overwhelms our capacity?

What then, rationing? Long wait times? Influence peddling?

The present Oregon state bureaucracies cannot keep up with simple tasks like renewing licenses plates and timely unemployment benefits.

I shudder to think how cumbersome and huge of a bureaucracy this new health care system will require.

As we all know, preventing fraud, waste and abuse has never been ANY government's strong suit.

And what about privacy? If insurance companies get it wrong, they can be sued or fined.

If the state gets it wrong and has a major data breach, what then? Oops, sorry?

How is accountability of this operation going to be handled?

Will the top administrators be eligible for high salaries and "Golden Parachutes" regardless of their performance?

I have very marketable skills and make a decent income.

My family and I presently use very little health care services.

If you raise my income tax to 15%, I guarantee you I will move out of this state.

I have lived in 7 other states in my adult life. I will find one better.

I will be happy to come back once I am no longer making money and want free health care.

Bill Newcomer
Salem, OR (for now)