

Sneaky ways to pass taxes & get raises

The charity tax

HB 2456 limits the deduction for charitable gifts from high income Oregonians and would have devastating impacts on Oregon's non-profits, charities and religious organizations

Many non-profits are dependent on large gifts are vital to consistent and long-term funding for these organizations. A United Way public opinion poll discovered that nearly 80% believe that reducing or eliminating the charitable tax deduction would have a negative impact on charities and the people they serve.

HB 3260: Hidden sales tax in health care bill?

HB 3260 may look like an innocent health care study bill — yet it may be a kickstart to a sales tax or a health care tax of some sort. HB 3260 requires the state to conduct a study on how finance health care in Oregon. Previously, lawmakers have floated the idea of using health care as the best chance at selling a sales to the voters who have rejected it nine times (see SB972 from 2011). The 2011 sales tax for health care bill has some of the same sponsors as the 2012 bill (but no mention of that word sales tax).

When government studies something they are often, in effect, laying the biased groundwork to launch a new tax or burdensome regulation. When Obama talked about health care reform — we didn't get much reform — instead we got 20 federal taxes attached to the Obamacare bill!

Pay nurses as doctors mandates = big costs

HB 2902 forces insurers to pay nurse practitioners and physicians the same as physicians (as it relates to insurer reimbursements). How is this going to reduce medical costs when you MANDATE higher medical costs? In addition to increasing cost for primary care medical services HB 2902 will

make it even harder to recruit physicians to practice in our state, which already suffers from a severe doctor shortage (especially in rural Oregon) . KVAL-TV Eugene reports "Family doctors are already in short supply, and now there are predictions the shortage is going to get even worse." (4/10/10).

85% tax hike said to "Not be about revenue"?

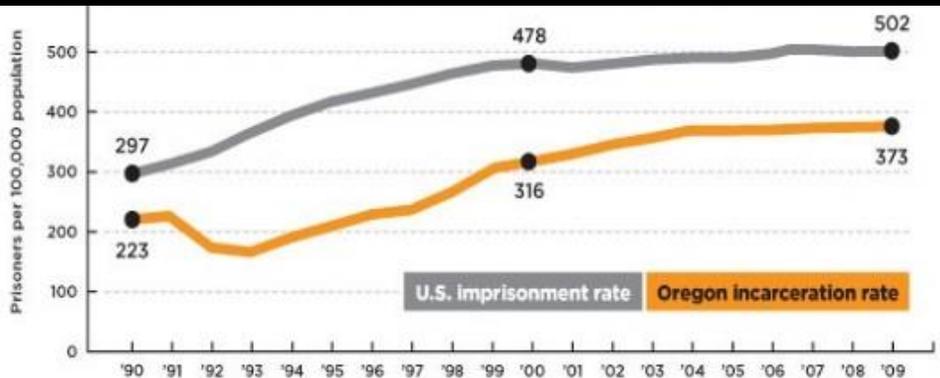
HB 2275 is an 85% increase in tobacco taxes. Yet, the pro-tax lobby testified in favor of HB 2275 saying "This is not about revenue". Much of the pro-tax testimony was about using taxes not to raise revenue but for big government behavior therapy to force taxpayers to change their personal choices and control what they purchase. Taxation traditionally has been a tool of taking people's income to pay for government services, now pro-tax lobbyist wish to use taxation as a political weapon to prevent citizens from purchasing a legal product and use force to control what people buy. It is a terrible trend in taxation that has no end in sight and no lack of people willing to step up to use government to control other people.

Oregon's 85% tobacco tax hike (Hb 2275) hits low-income and middle class families the hardest.

Facts dispel Oregon prison overpopulation myth

The Willamette Week has written a superb article about Oregon's effective prison system and questioning why Governor Kitzhaber would advocate changing it by reduce sentencing (release criminals early) in order to raise revenue. Willamette Week featured this chart showing that Oregon's incarceration rate is low which is contrary to the political hype. With Oregon's Measure 11's mandatory minimum sentences law we incarcerates felons around three-quarters of the national average, as it had in 1990. It begs the question — why let out criminals out early? Governor Kitzhaber submitted a reform plan to the state legislature that would end mandatory minimum sentences for second-degree robbery, second-degree assault and first-degree sex abuse. He claims that Oregon could save 60 million a year over the next ten years if criminals are released early in his plan.

Why set prisoners free when Oregon has a low prison rate?



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics; Oregon Commission on Public Safety

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