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SB 241-Oppose

Chair Gelser-Blouin, Vice-Chair Robinson and members of the committee

The Marion County Democrat's Legislative Committee opposes SB 241.

It would require the state and local workers who are trying to help those with critical needs for living to explain and require residents to apply for Federal programs for which they might be qualified. Many of the programs listed in the staff report are programs that are normally suggested by the worker.

However, there are some programs that would create real delay in our residents obtaining services while they wait for Federal determinations.

Oregon has a program named General Assistance. Those who are in this program receive some services prior to the Federal determination for disability which often takes long periods of time. The people in this program sign a waiver to return to the state the back payments made thus recouping state dollars spent.

Our concern is that requiring someone to apply for a benefit for which they may or may not qualify before helping short term. . We believe that many of the workers already point out and help residents apply for Federal programs for which they may be qualified.

Marion County Democrat's Legislative Committee