

Langlin, Steven

From: Samantha Warren <samantha.warren@maine.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Langlin, Steven
Subject: Re: [income.security-ip] BIS Committee meeting Dec. 7

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

And here is a follow-up to my earlier email with a little more detail about what a study would take into account. Let me know if there is any desire from the committee to explore this proposal in more detail.

-Sam

Research Proposal from Megan Bailey, Daniel Soucier, & Philip Trostel Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine

The Costs and Benefits of Creating Basic Income Security in Maine

On behalf of the University of Maine System, the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center proposes to conduct an analysis of the costs and benefits of basic income security in Maine. The analysis will begin with a thorough review of past basic income trials, existing long-term programs, and ongoing experiments in basic income. The feasibility of providing universal basic income through a direct cash payment system will be addressed, including how it could be implemented to complement existing programs and tax credits. In addition to an exploration of the feasibility of universal basic income, the analysis will examine the feasibility of enhanced welfare programs targeted strictly to low-income Maine resident participants. The implications for both economic security and fiscal repercussions will be estimated under different scenarios (to be developed in consultation with the Maine Legislature, Governor's Office, and other stakeholders as appropriate).

The analysis will include consideration of administrative overlap/streamlining to both citizens and government bureaucracy. The effectiveness of existing safety-net programs, nutritional assistance, and tax credits will be examined. Particular attention will be paid to Maine citizens currently slipping through the cracks because of the lack of comprehensive coverage of economic security.

A thorough objective analysis of the feasibility of creating basic economic security in Maine will take about three months and would cost approximately \$20,000. This budget estimate includes time for Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center faculty and staff.

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