



CASCADE UPDATE

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Affordable health care

Oregon Health Choice Program kicks off with SimpleCare

Cascade launched the Oregon Health Choice Program in January. This three-year educational initiative will advance ideas and policy alternatives that: reduce public and private health care costs; protect the patient-physician relationship; and improve consumer choice in Oregon's health care sector.

Cascade debuted the Oregon Health

“SimpleCare offers an excellent model for improving health care and lowering costs by returning insurance to its rightful role: protection against major unforeseen events.”

– Kurt T. Weber



Dr. David C. MacDonald addresses health care providers at Cascade forums in Portland and Salem.

Choice Program on February 28 and March 1 with a full schedule of media interviews, private meetings and public forums featuring Dr. David C. MacDonald, co-founder of the **American Association of Patients and Providers (AAPP)**. One AAPP program gaining local, national and international attention is **SimpleCare**.

Speaking before audiences of physicians, medical school students, insurance agents,

“Why is it the uninsured are coming in and paying retail prices for health care when they incur no insurance-related costs?”

– Dr. David C. MacDonald, co-founder, American Association of Patients and Providers

and other members of the medical community in Salem and Portland, Dr. MacDonald explained that **SimpleCare** was originally founded to help the uninsured afford medical care.

“Why is it the uninsured are coming in and paying retail prices for health care when they incur no insurance-related costs?” he asked. “Why don't we at least give them the same deal we give to insurance companies?” With those questions, **SimpleCare** was born.

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No child left behind?

In January Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), optimistically called the No Child Left Behind Act. Cascade education policy analyst Nick Weller discusses the likely impact for Oregon in his Policy Perspective, *All children tested, but many left behind*. He warns that the new ESEA marks a substantial increase in federal control over education policy, but credits the bill with recognizing that students should not be forced to attend perpetually failing schools.

The cornerstone of the bill is mandatory state testing, coupled with consequences for schools that show inadequate performance. States must adopt math and reading tests for grades three through eight. For Oregon this means new tests in grades four, six and seven. Weller cautions, “Oregon's school system is already

“Now that the federal government...has directed us down the path of establishing performance goals, Oregon should respond by granting educators greater flexibility to meet those goals.”

– Nick Weller

overloaded with testing. The state should ensure that a minimal amount of education funds and classroom time are devoted to the new tests.”

The ESEA requires that in the next 12 years 100 percent of students meet a state-defined level of proficiency on the exams.

Turn to *Left behind?*, page 4

Rein in Oregon's runaway government

In the recent budget re-balancing debates calls for tax increases were sometimes offered with the rationale that Oregonians are under-taxed in one or another area. Don't be fooled.

What state and local governments don't assess in taxes, they make up for in hefty fees and other revenue sources. In his February 28 editorial Albany *Democrat Herald* editor Hasso Hering astutely notes that there isn't much difference between a tax and a fee to the one paying the bill.

One difference, though, is that fees tend to slip under the radar screen. Voters will shy away from higher income or property taxes for themselves, but they'll happily vote for a cornucopia of fee, or even tax, increases as long as they think someone else is footing the bill.

It's a divide and conquer tactic. Get the non-smokers and teetotalers together to pass higher cigarette and alcohol taxes. The anti-

auto coalition can pass higher vehicle registration fees. Smart growers can support system development charges.

The list goes on, and it all adds up—to fund one of the highest spending states in the country. According to newly released U.S. Census data Oregon ranks eighth in the nation in state and local government spending per capita.

The recent calls for one-time revenue increases might lead one to believe that Oregon faces a one-time budget hole. Not true. The Governor has projected deficits on the order of \$1 billion for each of the next two biennia.

If that isn't enough to make you start chanting "all cuts budget," consider the unfunded liabilities of public employee pension funds at all levels of government. In 1998 the City of Portland considered placing an \$825 million bond measure on the ballot to bail out its police and fire pension fund.

The problem's still there. City officials are just waiting for a better time to deal with it—perhaps after they've left office.

Portland's not the only one on the hook. According to *The Oregonian*, the state's Public Employees Retirement System has an unfunded liability of \$3 billion. One projection pegs the deficit at \$7.3 billion over the next 40 years. Local governments are already considering bond measures to pay their share.

Oregon is commonly cited as a leader in the sustainability movement. It's time state and local governments got with the program and start reducing taxes, fees, and spending to more sustainable levels.



Steve Buckstein, President

Cascade Policy Institute

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Cascade Policy Institute
 813 SW Alder, Suite 450
 Portland, Oregon 97205
 (503) 242-0900 • fax 242-3822
 info@cascadepolicy.org • www.cascadepolicy.org

Cutting out the federal middle man

"Give Oregon back its money," implores Cascade chairman of the board William B. Conerly, Ph.D., in his January Policy Perspective on the federal unemployment insurance tax (FUTA).

Employers in every state collect the tax, which is sent to Washington, D.C., and then returned to states to pay for the administrative expenses of their employment agencies. A portion is kept in D.C. in a trust fund for loans to states that run out of money to pay benefits, and for the federal share of extended unemployment benefits. Of the \$84 million that Oregon collects each year, only 62 percent, or \$52 million, is returned to the state.

Conerly recommends eliminating the 0.8 percent federal tax. Oregon could instead levy a tax of only 0.5 percent of wages and cover its own administrative expenses. Further, states could agree to borrow and lend between themselves rather than depend on the federal trust fund, thereby accessing lower interest rates as well. As for the federal share of unemployment benefits, it originates in Oregon anyway.

"Oregon's share of the FUTA taxes in the federal trust funds is now about \$285 million, or more than five times Oregon's annual administrative expenses paid by the federal government," notes Conerly. If that money were returned to the state Oregon

could take responsibility for its own affairs and even delay implementation of the new 0.5 percent tax until the recession is over.

Conerly didn't stop with Oregon in his analysis. He ran the numbers for every state, and distributed his findings to sister think tanks across the county. Thus far think tanks in Washington, Oklahoma, Texas, Maryland, and Indiana have published Conerly's work.

"The federal unemployment tax has been a bad idea for some years," writes Conerly. "In recessionary times, we cannot afford to continue to tax jobs just to maintain the federal surplus."

Give Oregon back its money, by William B. Conerly, Ph.D., is at cascadepolicy.org.



Cascade chairman William B. Conerly (right) discusses the economy with Ray Suarez on the Jim Lehrer NewsHour on January 4.

School choice meets constitutional standards

By Robert Freedman, J.D.

On February 20 the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the Cleveland school choice case to decide the constitutionality of programs that enable low-income parents to send their children to the school of their choice, even if it is religious. Such an idea is not new in our system.

College students use Pell Grants, federal student loans, and the G.I. Bill to attend the colleges of their choice, including religious schools. Other programs allow taxpayers to take a deduction or tax credit for their donations to charities, including religious ones.

In legal terms these programs are constitutional for three reasons: first, these laws were enacted for a secular purpose; second, the class of beneficiaries, such as college students or people who want to donate money to charities, is defined by religiously neutral criteria; and, third, if any aid is directed to religious groups it is because of the independent choices of individuals. The Cleveland program meets all of these criteria.

The Court traditionally has begun its constitutional analysis of a program by looking at its purpose. Here, the purpose is abundantly clear: to repair one of the worst districts in the country.

In 1995 the Cleveland school district essentially collapsed. It couldn't account for a \$40 million advance from the state. Fewer than 1 in 14 students who entered Cleveland schools in kindergarten graduated on time and at grade level. Of those who made it to 9th grade, only 28 percent graduated from high school in four years—the worst rate in the nation.

As early as 1994, in an ongoing lawsuit concerning discrimination in the district, a federal court urged both the school district

The Cleveland program is constitutional for three reasons: first, it was enacted for a secular purpose; second, the class of beneficiaries is defined by religiously neutral criteria; and, third, if any aid is directed to religious groups it is because of the independent choices of individuals.

“Regretfully, none of the surrounding suburban schools have chosen to participate in the Cleveland program, belying the assertion that our public schools make the education of our children their top priority.”

and the State of Ohio to implement “innovative programs” to remedy the terrible situation in the district. The court described the district as being in a state of “total collapse” and noted the children of Cleveland were in a “catastrophic predicament.” In this context the federal court transferred control of the district to the State of Ohio. Once the state received control of the district it enacted the Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program.

The program provides funding for low-income families in the Cleveland school district to send their children to any participating private school in the district, to attend a suburban public school in a district adjacent to Cleveland, or, finally, to use the funding to pay for extra tutoring if the parents choose to have their child remain in a Cleveland public school.

Regretfully, none of the surrounding suburban schools have chosen to participate

in the program, belying the assertion that our public schools make the education of our children their top priority. This boycott, not surprisingly, has caused the percentage of students who enroll in religious schools through the program to seem unreasonably high, one of the principle points opponents raise when objecting to the scholarship program.

When the Court examines other factors, such as who participates in the program, it will find that 78 percent of the participants are from low-income single parent homes. It will find that students use the scholarships to attend a wide variety of schools, from those with no religious affiliation to schools affiliated with a diversity of faiths. The Court also will find that not a single dollar reaches a religiously affiliated school unless parents choose to send their child to such a school. As one federal court put it, “government funding of education does not single out religious entities for a benefit.” It simply allows students to get an education.

Our current system of forcing lower income families to stay in poor performing schools is unconscionable. It is time that we give parents and children the power to get an education of their choice.

Robert Freedman, J.D., is an attorney with the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Justice, which has defended the Cleveland program in court. For more information, visit www.ij.org.



School choice supporters rally before the U.S. Supreme Court building on February 20 as the Cleveland program is reviewed. Photo courtesy of [Children First America](http://ChildrenFirstAmerica.org).

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In the interim, schools must meet state-defined Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals that will vary according to schools' current performance.

"An objective definition of 'proficiency' does not exist, and where this bar is set has major consequences," Weller points out. "For example, in order to ensure 100 percent proficiency states may set very low standards, providing lip service to accountability while masking inadequate performance."

This phenomenon has already been seen locally: according to the Oregon Department of Education more than 99 percent of schools were rated satisfactory or above in the 2001 school report cards. However in the average satisfactory school nearly 50 percent of students failed to meet state standards on one or more of the following tests: reading, writing, math multiple choice, and math problem solving.

Students at either end of the achievement spectrum could be adversely impacted by the new proficiency standards. "Students who excel could be neglected as curriculum is watered down to meet standards of the lowest common denominator," Weller explains. "Those who struggle might be more readily labeled 'learning disabled' to exempt them from the tests, when in fact the problem might be more accurately described as a teaching disability of a more rigid school system."

Weller warns that individual needs will be sacrificed with any single definition of school-wide success. He suggests, "The best way to know if a school is successful is to give families the opportunity to change schools when their child's needs are not met."



Steve Buckstein (right) and Sen. Vern Duncan, former Superintendent of Public Instruction, at the Capitol on March 2. Buckstein spoke that day at Willamette Univ. Law School's Education and the Law Symposium.

U.S. Department of Education discretionary spending
Billions of dollars



NAEP reading scores, 4th grade

Despite a major increase in federal education spending over the last decade, fourth grade test scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress have not improved. Source: U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Indeed, this version of the ESEA seeks to empower some parents with limited educational options, including intradistrict public school choice and supplemental education services, such as private tutoring. Weller says, "The options are only available to students in historically failing schools or students whose schools fail to meet AYP goals for two or more consecutive years. Still, this is an improvement over the last version of the ESEA, which identified nearly 3,000 underperforming schools nationwide but never even released the data."

Schools that fail to meet AYP for four or more consecutive years will be subject to corrective actions such as state takeover, the hiring of a private management contractor, conversion to a charter school, or significant staff restructuring. Weller notes, "The corrective actions should ideally act as negative incentives to encourage school improvement. Unfortunately, the schools have not been given any commensurate freedom to improve their performance." Weller recommends

"In order to ensure 100 percent proficiency states may set very low standards, providing lip service to accountability while masking inadequate school performance."

– Nick Weller

changes in Oregon policy in light of the new ESEA. "Now that the federal government, for better or worse, has directed us down the path of establishing performance goals, Oregon should respond by granting educators greater flexibility to meet those goals," says Weller.

Additionally, he suggests the state consider "delaying implementation of the Certificate of Advanced Mastery, at least until state-level reforms can be evaluated in the context of the federal government's new mandates. The state should also take this opportunity to re-evaluate whether the Certificate of Initial Mastery is even necessary."

All children tested, but many left behind, by Cascade education policy analyst Nick Weller is online at www.cascadepolicy.org.

Charter forests offer public lands solution

By Randal O'Toole

President Bush's 2003 budget for the Forest Service promises a charter forest proposal that could highlight innovative solutions for public lands management. The idea has drawn cautious support from members of Congress on both sides of the aisle. Predictably, certain environmental groups have vowed to "stop this dangerous proposal" even though they admit they don't know much about it.

The proposal would establish "forests or portions of forests as separate entities, outside of the existing [Forest Service] structure and reporting to a local trust entity for oversight." Similar to the charter school concept, charter forests may be exempt from the reams of manuals, handbooks, and other internally generated rules that have gridlocked the agency with, as Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth describes it, "analysis paralysis."

The Forest Service was once reputed to be the best agency in the federal government. Fifty years ago *Newsweek* magazine called it "one of Uncle Sam's soundest and most businesslike investments." Featuring Smokey the Bear on its cover, *Newsweek's* June 2, 1952 issue noted that Forest Service management of the national forests earned a profit, was untouched by scandal, and produced enormous watershed, recreation, and wildlife benefits.

In 1975, when I began studying the Forest Service, almost everyone still believed the agency made money on timber sales and that those sales were good for wildlife, recreation, and other resources. I soon learned that national forests actually lost money on most of the timber they sold; they just covered it up with Enron-like bookkeeping. By 1980 other researchers found that national forest timber sales were harmful to many species of wildlife, water quality, salmon, and the most valuable forms of outdoor recreation.

It took me several more years to figure out why the Forest Service did so much harm to the forests it had promised to protect. Congress gave the Forest Service tax dollars to arrange timber sales, but told the agency to fund reforestation and other post-sale activities out of the timber receipts. Agency managers soon learned to maximize timber sales in order to fund an array of programs, often spending the full amount of timber receipts, leaving nothing to return to the Treasury.

In 1991, for example, northeastern

Oregon's Wallowa-Whitman National Forest spent \$6.8 million of taxpayer funds on timber sales for which it collected \$9.7 million in revenues. But instead of returning those revenues to the taxpayers, the forest spent them on reforestation and other activities.

The budgetary system was perverse in many ways. Because the money was spent mainly on restoration, the more damage timber sales did, the more money managers



Randal O'Toole

got to keep. Officials responsible for wildlife, recreation, and watershed became timber sale backers because some of the money could be spent on those resources, even though the net effect of the sales was harmful to them. Every level of the agency's hierarchy had a stake in the below-cost timber sale program because as much as a third of the money went for overhead. It was a system designed to spiral out of control, and it did until it collapsed of its own weight and internal discontent as national forest timber sales declined by 80 percent in the early 1990s.

Now another perverse incentive rules the agency: fire suppression. Congress has a history of giving the Forest Service a blank check for putting out fires. Forest managers have known for decades that some fires should be allowed to burn for the good of forest ecosystems. But with an increasingly gargantuan share of the bureaucracy dependent on the blank check that comes around each fire season, the Forest Service blindingly puts out all fires. The northern Washington fire that killed four firefighters last July was in a remote area that forest planners had declared "off-limits" to fire suppression. But when the fire started, the fire bureaucracy never looked at the plans, it just started spending money.

Today, even Chief Bosworth agrees the agency is broken, but few agree about how to fix it. Fortunately, there are many promising ideas.

In *This Sovereign Land*, University of Montana Professor Dan Kemmis suggests that national forest problems are due to the agency's tendency to promote polarization rather than cooperation. Kemmis urges the agency to give more decision-making power to collaborative groups of resource users, environmentalists, and other interests. Kemmis points to the Applegate Partnership, in which timber industry and environmental interests in southern Oregon tried to work out a compromise plan for the Siskiyou National Forest, as an example of how such

"I soon learned that national forests actually lost money on most of the timber they sold; they just covered it up with Enron-like bookkeeping."

collaborative groups can work.

UC-Berkeley Professor Sally Fairfax thinks the federal government can learn from states that operate their lands as fiduciary trusts. In *The State Trust Lands*, Fairfax and co-author Jon Souder point out trusts have clearer goals and stricter management standards. As a result, they often operate more efficiently and with less controversy than the federal land agencies. Oregon and Washington state forest trusts earn millions of dollars in profits for schools each year. Washington recently set aside thousands of acres of land from timber cutting by selling cutting rights to an environmental group, something the Forest Service has refused to do.

My own proposal is to fund forests out of a share of their receipts rather than out of tax dollars. This would force managers to be both efficient and responsive to users, not to congressional appropriators.

There is no consensus on which ideas are correct, but none are mutually exclusive. At least two broad-based groups, the [Idaho Federal Lands Task Force](#) and the [Forest](#)



Successful charter forests could highlight solutions to public lands conflicts on all federally owned land in Oregon—about 54 percent of the state.

Turn to *Charter forests*, page 6

Repeal Prohibition—again

By Steve Buckstein

Drug policy will be the focus of a Cascade luncheon in Portland on May 23. Please join us to hear two-term Republican Governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson, discuss responsible drug policy reform.

On a cold December day some years ago a woman asked her big brother to buy her some marijuana. She was undergoing “an agonizing jolt of chemotherapy resulting in wracking nausea” and believed pot would make the therapy bearable. Big brother turned her down because he was a self described “coward.” He knew nothing about such things, and was sure that a “lurking narc” would spot him and bask in the glory of busting such a famous person.

Who is “big brother?” None other than conservative icon William F. Buckley, Jr. He doesn’t have to oppose the drug war for ideological reasons; he has very practical ones. Others should follow his lead.

The war on drugs has done more damage, for a longer period of time, than Prohibition in the 1920s. Then, alcohol was the demon of choice. Crime and gangs exploded during that failed experiment, just as they thrive on the current drug prohibition.

Horrorified by the violence and corruption

that alcohol prohibition fostered, lifelong Republican Pauline Morton Sabin told Congress in 1930, “[W]omen played a large part in the enactment [of prohibition]... They are now realizing with heart burning and heart aching that if the spirit is not within, legislation can be of no avail. They thought they could make prohibition as strong as the Constitution, but instead have made the Constitution as weak as prohibition...” She went on to say that before Prohibition, her children had no access to alcohol. During Prohibition they could get it anywhere.

The same is true for drugs today. We’ve been fighting this war for decades, yet the average American family is more worried now that Johnny or Jane will use drugs and ruin their lives. In many states civil asset forfeiture laws mean drugs in Johnny’s room can lead to a

family losing its home. “Zero tolerance” is the antithesis of liberty, undermining private property rights and the protections secured in the Bill of Rights. The Founding Fathers didn’t say that Americans should be secure in their persons and property except if the teenager of the household smoked pot.

If you think decriminalization would lead to more lives destroyed by drugs, think again. Cigarettes are legal, at least for now, yet tobacco use has declined dramatically—through education, not prohibition. Cigarette prices are so low that it doesn’t make sense for pushers to hook your kids, or for smokers to break into your home to feed their addiction. Cocaine and heroin are another matter. The high prices and profits created by prohibition inevitably lead to black markets, which lead to crime.

So, what have we learned? That it isn’t drugs, but the war on drugs that allows our own government to seize assets from innocent Americans. That it isn’t drugs, but the war on drugs that is more likely to lead our children into self-destructive drug addiction. That it isn’t drugs, but the war on drugs that leads to property crimes and violence.

The question isn’t whether drugs are good or bad. The question is whether government can do a better job ridding our streets of drugs than it has ridding our society of poverty. Or whether government can do a better job keeping our kids off drugs than it has educating them in government schools. Bill Buckley understands that government is not

“The drug problem will be addressed more effectively through civil society—the medical community, the church, the family.”

capable of solving these problems, but it can make them worse. The drug problem will be addressed more effectively through civil society—the medical community, the church, the family.

Remember Pauline Sabin’s words, “They thought they could make prohibition as strong as the Constitution, but instead have made the Constitution as weak as prohibition.”

Steve Buckstein is president of Cascade Policy Institute. A version of this commentary appeared in the October 1998 issue of *BrainstormNW* magazine.

Charter forests...

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Options Group, have proposed to test these ideas singly and in various combinations on individual forests.

Bush Administration sources say they included the charter forest idea in the 2003 budget in response to these and other calls for such tests. Rather than endorse any particular idea, the administration is providing a wide-open opportunity to test any and all ideas that make sense. As there are more than 100 national forests, there are plenty of opportunities for a variety of tests.

Congress should grant the Forest Service broad discretion to explore alternative ways of managing national forests. Experiments that are successful can help us improve on-the-ground management and relieve controversies not only on the national forests but also on the other 440 million acres of national parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands.

Randal O’Toole is senior economist at the Thoreau Institute in Bandon, Oregon, and an adjunct scholar to Cascade. He is author of *Reforming the Forest Service*, published in 1988 by Island Press. Read more on public lands management, including the findings of the [Forest Options Group](#), at the Thoreau Institute website, www.ti.org.

“The question isn’t whether drugs are good or bad. The question is whether government can do a better job ridding our streets of drugs than it has ridding our society of poverty.”

The King County Bar Association (Seattle) recently released an exhaustive one-year study on drug policy. The report was endorsed by the Washington State Bar Association, the Washington State Medical Association, the Washington State Pharmacy Association and the King County Medical Association. It called for a drug policy shift from criminal justice to public health.

The professional associations conclude, “The current use of criminal sanctions against those who possess or deliver relatively small amounts of drugs is an ineffective means to discourage drug use or to address the problems arising from drug abuse, and it is extremely costly in both financial and human terms, unduly burdening the taxpayer and causing more harm to people than the use of drugs themselves.” The report is online at www.kcba.org.

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SimpleCare's operating principle is that physicians charge less when patients pay for routine medical care at the time of service. Fee for service allows physicians to cut their billing and insurance-related administrative costs, often by 30 to 50 percent. With less paperwork, doctors have more time to spend with patients, which makes for greater job satisfaction and better patient care.

"For people unable to pay even the lower cost of care at the time of delivery, the AAPP is working to offer a low-interest medical credit card so they can make payments over time," MacDonald said. Further, in the spirit of Hippocrates, the AAPP has developed the Cares for America program, which asks SimpleCare providers to accept some patients each month who cannot pay for their health care services. Those patients are asked to volunteer time with a nonprofit within 90 days as a way to pay their bill.

"Insurance still has its role to play," said MacDonald. Though SimpleCare

"Pay cash for routine care, insure for unforeseen, catastrophic events—just like you do with your home or car."

– Dr. David C. MacDonald

Fee for service allows physicians to cut their billing and insurance-related administrative costs, often by 30 to 50 percent. With less paperwork, doctors have more time to spend with patients, which makes for greater job satisfaction and better patient care.

was created with the uninsured in mind, he recommends that individuals and businesses use SimpleCare coupled with inexpensive, high deductible insurance policies. "Pay cash for routine care, insure for unforeseen, catastrophic events—just like you do with your home or car," MacDonald advised.

SimpleCare can work well for businesses that offer flexible spending accounts, Section 105s, and Medical Savings Accounts, which are basically Individual Retirement Accounts for health care. The latter would allow wealth to accrue, and could ultimately become a self-funding source for one's health and long-term care insurance.

"We chose to launch the Oregon Health Choice Program with SimpleCare because it is a working solution that is being adopted by many Oregon doctors," said Cascade vice president Kurt T. Weber, who is coordinating the Institute's health policy work. "Moreover, SimpleCare offers an excellent model for improving health care and lowering costs by returning insurance to its rightful role:

protection against major unforeseen events."

Weber notes that on the immediate horizon Cascade is organizing a Portland seminar to highlight solutions that businesses, organizations, and individuals can implement immediately to have better health care while controlling or lowering costs. Options to be covered include flexible spending accounts, Section 105s, Medical Savings Accounts, and other innovative tools.

For more information on SimpleCare visit www.simplecare.com or read the Cascade Commentary, "SimpleCare helps cut health care costs," at www.cascadepolicy.org.

Health providers, businesses and individuals who would like to be kept apprised of Oregon Health Choice Program activities should contact Kurt T. Weber at (503) 242-0900 or kurt@cascadepolicy.org. To find out how you can help support the Oregon Health Choice Program please call Tamar Hare or email her at tamar@cascadepolicy.org.

Cascade speakers advance innovative ideas



Kurt T. Weber discusses the work of free market think tanks with the Oregon State University College Republicans on February 5.



Cascade's John A. Charles (left) and fellow panelist St. Rep. Bruce Starr at the Northwest Transportation Conference on February 5 in Corvallis.

Need a speaker for your next event? Cascade staff, board and academic advisors are available to speak on a wide variety of Oregon policy issues, and what's more, they won't put your audience to sleep!

Contact Cascade at info@cascadepolicy.org, or (503) 242-0900 for scheduling.

Events

April 22, 23 – Cascade hosts education policy luncheon in Portland with Brother Bob Smith, principal of Messmer Catholic High School, Milwaukee, WI.

May 3-5 – John A. Charles speaks in Las Vegas at the Foundation for Economic Education's national convention.

May 22 – Kurt T. Weber discusses agriculture policy at the McMinnville Lions Club.

May 23 – Cascade hosts drug policy luncheon in Portland with Republican Governor of New Mexico, Gary Johnson.

Publications

- **All children tested but many left behind**, Nick Weller, Policy Perspective No. 1021, March.
- **Urban renewal drains resources, confuses all**, Gregory W. Byrne, J.D., Cascade Commentary 2002-08, February.
- **Repent from sin taxes**, John A. Charles, CC 2002-07, February.
- **Time for a tax cut**, William B. Conerly, Ph.D., CC 2002-06, February.
- **Leave job creation to private sector**, Angela Eckhardt and Lawrence W. Reed, CC 2002-05, February.
- **Say "no" to Governor's tax increases**, Steve Buckstein, CC 2002-04, January.
- **City officials don't want to solve congestion**, John A. Charles, CC 2002-03, January.
- **School Choice Basics**, Cascade Policy Institute, January.
- **Give Oregon back its money**, William B. Conerly, Ph.D., Policy Perspective No. 1020. January.

Publications and event details are online at www.cascadepolicy.org, or call (503) 242-0900.

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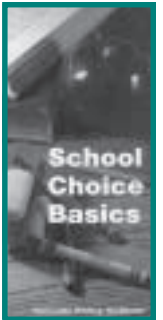
In January Cascade launched a new weekly web publication series to offer short insightful comments on Oregon news. The *QuickPoint!* is available for reprint in whole or in part with credit given to the author and Cascade, as are the longer *Cascade Commentaries*. Visit www.cascadepolicy.org often for an intellectual feast.

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Education and PERS resources

School Choice Basics brochure

Cascade's new *School Choice Basics* brochure offers an introduction to the most promising education reforms in America today. It is the companion piece to the report *Case for choice in schooling*, by Matthew Brouillette, and an ideal gift for parents, educators, the media and public officials. Individual copies are free; discounts available for quantity purchases.



PERS video

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