

CONCORD MONITOR

Letter: Welfare pays well

For the Monitor

Monday, December 22, 2014

The Cato Institute has released an updated 2013 study showing that welfare benefits pay more than a minimum wage job in 33 states and the District of Columbia. Yet, even worse, welfare pays more than \$15 per hour in 13 states.

The study shows that welfare benefits have increased faster than minimum wage. Yup, it is now more profitable to sit at home than it is to earn an honest day's pay.

The biggest offender, where welfare recipients "earn" \$29.13 per hour, or a \$60,590 yearly salary, is Hawaii, all for doing nothing. But let's bring this closer to home.

Welfare recipients, not having a job, receive a higher pre-tax equivalent salary, really a dole, in:

1. Massachusetts: \$50,540
2. Connecticut: \$44,370
3. Rhode Island: \$43,330
4. Vermont: \$42,350
5. New Hampshire: \$39,750

The average middle-class annual income today is \$50,000, down from \$54,000 at the beginning of the recession. Now you know why they stay home rather than look for a job.

It is time for a drastic change. Restore charity to the churches; they know how to monitor who really has needs.

Rep. DICK MARPLE

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