

Equal Pay bill has a serious downside

Editor:

Here's the problem with the Equal Pay bill being considered by the Utah Legislature: Traditionally men have earned more than women in the workplace because they are considered the primary breadwinners for families. They need to make enough to support their families and allow the Mother to remain in the home to raise and nurture the children.

If businesses are forced to pay women the same as male earnings, that means they will have to reduce the pay for the men they employ, simple economics.

If that happens, then men will have an even more difficult time earning enough to support their families, which will mean more Mothers will be forced to leave the home (where they may prefer to be) to join the workforce to make up the difference.

And as even more women thus enter the workforce that creates more competition for jobs (even men's jobs) and puts further downward pressure on the pay for all jobs, meaning more and more Mothers will be forced into the workforce. And that is bad for families and thus for all of society.

It's a vicious cycle that only gets worse the more equality of pay is forced upon us. It's a situation of well-meaning intentions, but negative unintended consequences.

We should encourage our Legislators to drop the whole notion. Let the marketplace determine what free-market forces should prevail. It is not the role of government to dictate to businesses what they should pay anyway, either as a Minimum Wage or Equal Pay for men and women.

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Answer the following questions:

1. What warrants are stated and/or embedded in Mr. Green's argument?
2. How does the writer structure his argument? (Give a *referential* summary of his letter.)
Include: What are his premises—and are they true?
3. What rhetorical strategies does he employ in his argument? (Give a *rhetorical* summary.)
Include: Does his argument apply valid logic—or do you see fallacious reasoning in the argument?
4. Does Mr. Green's letter to the editor present a sound argument? Why or why not?