

Welfare Reform

Our Editorial Board's recommendation for welfare reform calls for the elimination of all federal and state cash welfare payments to an individual. OK - a lot of readers will be shocked and deplored by that statement, and their reaction will be "...those heartless S.O.B.s..." However, nothing could be further from the truth. We only want to get the federal and state governments out of the business of dispensing cash welfare payments to individuals.

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not. ...Thomas Jefferson

We share Thomas Jefferson's concern that a society is at risk, when its citizens can easily obtain cash benefits from their government. The recipients will begin to rationalize that those payments represent an entitlement, and they will begin to rely upon that government welfare program, rather than take personal responsibility for bettering their own personal lives.

So, does that mean We The People should ignore the daily struggles of those citizens who live below the applicable federal poverty guideline amount, and who struggle to meet their daily living needs? Absolutely not. As we discuss in the Conversation Piece entitled *What the US Government Should (and Should Not) Do*, we make the case that the best vehicle(s) for delivering "social services" (and "welfare") to an individual (and if necessary, to that individual's family) are religious organizations and Not For Profit organizations. And as we discuss in the Conversation Piece entitled *Tax Reform / Tax Simplification*, we make a recommendation that the US government can support these religious and charitable organizations via the country's federal income tax policies.

What about unemployment benefits? We believe that the US government and state governments should continue to collect this type of payroll tax revenues from employers. However, the US government should immediately fund those payments back to the applicable state. And as we mentioned above, we believe that state governments should not provide cash welfare payments to its citizens. Instead, these unemployment tax receipts should be distributed by the state to the appropriate Not For Profit organizations that the state's citizens should look to for assistance - whether it be a state or local food bank, a local Habitat for Humanity type of entity, an entity that can provide assistance in paying utility costs, or an organization that provides remedial job skills re-training, etc.

Our Editorial Board is also gravely concerned about the state of the family in today's society. The number of single parent households is alarming, as this represents a much more challenging situation for that family unit, when one of the parents is not present in a child's daily life. Facing the challenges of day to day life is much easier with the support of a strong family unit, and is easier still when there is a strong extended family that includes grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We believe that a strong family unit is needed to nurture our society's children, as they begin to take on the personal responsibility for their own lives.