

Trigger Warning: The aff mentions instances of sexual assault, physical violence, and abuse.

Noah and I affirm, Resolved: The United States should replace means-tested welfare programs with a universal basic income.

Arthur of the APH in 2016 finds that under most proposals, a universal basic income, or UBI, would be paid at a high enough level so that all individuals could meet their basic needs without additional income.

Contention 1: Innovation

Lung of the Entrepreneur in 2016 reports that 70 percent of Americans aren't engaged by what they do for a living and are dissatisfied.

But, these people can choose a different route. **Joseph of Chron** finds that starting your own business allows you to make a living while pursuing something for which you have a strong passion.

The problem is that financial fear prevents people from pursuing their ideas and businesses. **Hoddinott of Capitalist Creations** explains that often, would-be entrepreneurs never pursue their self-employed dreams for two reasons: Either they don't want to leave their job, or they don't know how they'll finance the early days of the venture.

Fortunately, a UBI gives people the confidence to take the risk of starting a business.

Hedreen of Business in 2019 reports that UBI increases entrepreneurship because it provides for basic needs in the early lean days of the company and acts as a safety net if the business fails.

Weller of Business Insider in 2017 corroborates that the security of getting regular income would encourage people to take risks and invest and even a very small safety net would unlock a huge amount of entrepreneurialism.

This was proven empirically in Finland as **Kangas of the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2019** concludes that basic income recipients were significantly more confident in starting a business with over 70% reporting so.

The impact is revitalizing the workforce

Steinbaum of the Roosevelt Institute in 2017 quantifies that a UBI program offering \$1,000 in income to citizens would result in an estimated increase of over 4.5 million jobs as a result of the formation of new businesses.

Contention 2: Intimate Partner Violence

There is currently a crisis in the United States that is causing the suffering of millions. **Varnado of the University of Southern California in 2019** reports that in the United States 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner — amounting to more than 12 million people each year.

The NCADV finds that a majority of victims are women as 1 in 4 women experience severe intimate partner violence.

Unfortunately, a major block towards the freedom of many victims of IPV is money traps created by abusers. **The Atlantic in 2019** writes that by blocking or controlling access to financial assets, abusers can coerce their victims into staying with them or coming back if they try to leave, locking them into a cycle of abuse.

The NNEDV quantifies that financial abuse occurs in 99% of cases and survivors reflect that concerns over their ability to provide financially for themselves and their children was one of the top reasons for staying in or returning to an abusive partner.

Fortunately, we can help these victims and give them another lifeline through a universal basic income. **Womack of The Independent in 2018** explains that UBI would transform life for women. By giving everyone financial independence, UBI would ensure no woman is ever dependent on her partner to meet her basic needs. And for those in abusive relationships, one of the largest barriers against leaving would be removed.

Flanigan of Slate in 2018 continues that while means-tested welfare programs withhold benefits from women, UBI aims to pay all individuals and not households, giving women in abusive relationships the financial security to leave, even if they lack qualifications.

Overall, **Flanigan** concludes that UBI would do more than any other economic policy imaginable to make women less susceptible to abuse.

There are two main impacts

First, violent crime

The NCADV writes that intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.

It gets even worse as **Jenkins of The Washington Post in 2018** concludes that nearly half of the women in the U.S. who were murdered during the past decade were killed by an intimate partner.

Second, suicide

Intimate partner violence causes a multitude of mental health conditions that lead to the worst for women.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration impacts that IPV is linked to increased risk of suicide for women exposed to partner violence. These women are nearly five times more likely to attempt suicide as women not exposed to partner violence.

Thus we affirm

Cards:

Observation:

Arthur of The Parliament of Australia, 11/18/16

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp1617/BasicIncome#_Toc467232158

“Unconditional A UBI would not come with any behavioural conditions. Currently, policymakers in many countries attach behavioural conditions to income support payments. They require recipients to do such things as search for work; participate in training or workfare;[11] submit to drug tests; clear any outstanding warrants; and vaccinate their children and send them to school.[12] Under a UBI scheme, all adult citizens would have a legal right to payment regardless of how they chose to live, much the same way age pensioners have a legal right to payments without any conditions attached to their behaviour. Adequate **Under most proposals, a UBI would be paid at a high enough level so that an [all] individual could meet their basic needs without additional income.** However, this adequacy is not an essential feature of a UBI. Some proposals envisage a scheme where universal basic income payments are topped up by targeted income support payments and social services. How would a basic income scheme work? The impact of a UBI depends on how the payment itself is designed and also on the design of the broader policy environment in which it is embedded. In most proposals, a UBI would be part of a package of changes. These include changes to existing welfare payments and services and to the tax system”

New Businesses:

Lung of the Entrepreneur, 01/18/16

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/254095>

““Most men lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them.” -- Henry David Thoreau. Some of my friends love telling me how great their jobs are. They brag about everything they do. Then, in the same week, they complain about everything they have to deal with. This isn't surprising. **Most people are dissatisfied with their jobs. In fact, 70 percent of Americans aren't engaged by what they do for a living. Let's put that into perspective. There are around 120 million full-time workers in the U.S. right now and 84 million of them don't really like their jobs.** Are you one of them?”

Joseph of Chron

<https://smallbusiness.chron.com/5-key-reasons-start-business-19.html>

“Income Potential When you start your own business, you have the opportunity to earn an unlimited income based on your own efforts and the success or failure of the enterprise. This differs from working for a company where your income may be limited by a salary structure or the evaluation of your performance by your superiors. **Pursuing a Passion Starting your own business allows you to make a living while pursuing something for which you have a strong passion.** You may have a special talent, such as writing, playing music or repairing automobiles that you've enjoyed as a hobby. By turning it into a business, you may find more enjoyment and fulfillment in your work life that can lead to a happier life in general.”

Hoddinott of Capitalist Creations

<https://capitalistcreations.com/the-three-fs-that-kill-entrepreneur-dreams/>

“**Finances: Often, would-be entrepreneurs never pursue their self-employed dreams for two reasons: Either they don't want to leave their high-paying job** (this is the danger of contentment – golden handcuffs), **or they don't**

know how they'll finance the early days of the venture. I'm here to tell anyone debating leaving their high-paying job to become an entrepreneur that it's the lifestyle of entrepreneurship which makes it priceless. And no job can compete with the emotional rewards of being an entrepreneur. For those concerned about financing their venture early on, there's nothing wrong with working nights while you build your dream life. Combine that with a little short-term borrowing from a credit line, or perhaps credit card, and you'll get it done. If you really want it bad enough, you can cut back on your 'lifestyle' expenses until you're a success. Bare necessities only. Refer to the quote at the top of this blog entry for motivation."

Hedreen of King's College London, Business, 08/27/2019

<https://www.business.com/articles/universal-basic-income-innovation/>

"UBI will only increase innovation – it is a total privilege to have the cushion of enough to live on, such that someone can pursue a great idea they have," said Britta Schell, who runs her own market research consultancy. "I was only able to start my own business because I was fortunate to have health benefits and income from my husband's full-time job ... [I] couldn't have built my business without this support." For Schell, it's also a generational issue. "Millennials and Gen Z are absolutely drowning in education debt, and I think daily about how many fantastic business ideas just aren't coming to life because young people have to keep up with debt payments and just don't have the luxury to pursue them." As for the do-or-die argument, Schell disagrees. "The determination to succeed comes from feeling so strongly in your idea, not a fear of failure. And I just can't relate to that argument ... Most are already living their lives that way, but the 'no turning back' is on their day-to-day job, because they are on such a debt precipice." Yang's campaign shares this view. As its website states, "**UBI increases entrepreneurship because it provides for basic needs in the early lean days of the company and acts as a safety net if the business fails.**" According to Yang, UBI will also fuel innovation from the demand side by creating more consumers with disposable incomes to sell to."

Weller of Business Insider, 08/21/17

<https://www.businessinsider.com/entrepreneurs-endorsing-universal-basic-income-2017-3>

"Basic income advocates have long argued that **the security of getting regular income would encourage people to take risks and invest.** Butterfield, CEO of the messaging app Slack, seemed to agree when he wrote on Twitter in early August that **"giving people even a very small safety net would unlock a huge amount of entrepreneurialism."** In February, the eBay founder donated \$493,000 through his philanthropic organization, Omidyar Network, to an experiment in basic income taking place in Kenya later this year. The experiment is put on by GiveDirectly, a charity that delivers cash transfers to people in East Africa as a means to lift from poverty. The findings will be "unlike those of any past study and provide evidence-based arguments to shed light on the discussions around the future of work and poverty alleviation policies," according to a February statement."

Kangas of The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Helsinki, 2019

http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/161361/Report_The%20Basic%20Income%20Experiment%2020172018%20in%20Finland.pdf

"A clear majority of the respondents in both the test group and the control group agreed somewhat or agreed strongly with the statement that with a basic income it would make more sense financially to accept a job offer (Table 15). Furthermore, those in the test group thought that the basic income provided an incentive more often (89 per cent) than those in the control group (76 per cent). **A majority of the respondents considered that a basic income would make it easier to start one's own business: 72 per cent of the respondents in the test group** and 63 per cent of the respondents in the control group. Of the respondents in the test group, 85 per cent agreed somewhat or agreed strongly with the statement that a basic income should be introduced as a permanent part of the social security system in Finland. In the control group, 75 percent of the respondents agreed (Table 15)."

Steinbaum of the Roosevelt Institute, 08/17

<http://rooseveltinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Modeling-the-Macroeconomic-Effects-of-a-Universal-Basic-Income.pdf>

"The increase in GDP is also accompanied by respectively higher nominal wage and price inflation. As we mentioned above, the US economy is well below its potential and therefore the degree of inflation is moderate. For example, in scenario 9, with the highest growth of real GDP

(13.1% higher compared to the baseline), the price level is 3.77% higher than its baseline value at the end of our projection period. In other words, if in the baseline scenario the GDP deflator were 100, in scenario 9 it would be 103.77. This implies an annual increase in the rate of inflation of less than half a percentage point. We assume that this increase will not induce any further changes in the monetary policy of the Federal Reserve. (Under the baseline scenario, it is assumed that the FED slowly increases its base rate in the first two years of the projection period—because it has more-or-less said that that is what it is going to do.) It is also noteworthy that in all scenarios, nominal wages increase faster than prices. **Moreover, the increases in output result in a significant increase in the labor force. Under proposal 3, the labor force is around 2.5 million workers higher compared to the baseline, while in proposal 3 this number is close to 4.7 million. Even in the deficit neutral variation of the proposals in scenarios 10 to 12 there is a substantial increase in the labor force, of 194,000, 690,000 and 1.1 million workers, respectively.** Finally, the acceleration of the growth rate increases the employment rate, as well. At the end of our projection period, the employment rate is around 1.1 percent higher under the deficit-funded variations of proposal 2 and is roughly double this figure (2.1 percent) under the same variations of proposal 3. In the deficit-neutral version, the employment rate inches up by 0.2 to 0.3 percent. It is worth mentioning that because the employment rate depends mainly on the growth rate of output, the differences in the employment rate of the scenarios compared to the baseline are higher in the first six years of the simulations and then slightly fade as the growth rates converge to the growth rates of the baseline.”

IPV:

Varnado of the University of Southern California, Center for Health Journalism, 03/27/19

<https://www.centerforhealthjournalism.org/2019/03/11/domestic-violence-america-s-dirty-little-secret>

“The National Domestic Violence Hotline defines domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence (IPV) as “a pattern of behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. It includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of domestic violence/abuse can be occurring at any one time within the same intimate relationship.” IPV is pervasive, perpetrated on millions of individuals worldwide. **In the United States alone, “On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year,”** according to the hotline. “One in four women (24.3 percent) and one in seven men (13.8 percent) aged 18 and older in the US have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.”

NCADV, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

<https://ncadv.org/statistics>

“On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.¹ **1 in 4 women** and 1 in 9 men **experience severe intimate partner physical violence**, intimate partner contact sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking with impacts such as injury, fearfulness, post-traumatic stress disorder, use of victim services, contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, etc.²”

The NNEDV, The National Network to End Domestic Violence

<https://nnedv.org/content/about-financial-abuse/>

“Financial abuse, while less commonly understood, is one of the most powerful methods of keeping a survivor trapped in an abusive relationship and deeply diminishes the victim’s ability to stay safe after leaving an abusive partner. Research indicates that **financial abuse occurs in 99% of domestic violence cases.** Surveys of **survivors reflect that concerns over their ability to provide financially for themselves and their children was one of the top reason for staying in or returning to an abusive partner.** As with all forms of abuse, **financial abuse occurs across all socio-economic, educational, and racial and ethnic groups.**”

The Atlantic, 19

<https://www.theatlantic.com/sponsored/allstate/how-money-traps-victims-of-domestic-violence/750/>

“When domestic violence becomes a national conversation, it’s often only after the curtain is pulled back on an otherwise respected, high-profile celebrity. The ensuing uproar makes headlines for a few days, maybe weeks, and then fades back into news-cycle obscurity. But for the millions of victims of domestic abuse—more than one in four women in the U.S., according to the Department of Justice—these headlines ignore a less-visible, longer-lasting damage wrought by their abusers: financial abuse. **By blocking or controlling access to financial assets, abusers can coerce their victims into staying with them or coming back if they try to leave, locking them into a cycle of abuse. In fact, “lacking financial knowledge or resources is the number one indicator of whether a domestic violence victim will stay, leave, or return to an abusive relationship.”**” according to the Allstate Foundation’s Purple Purse, a fundraising and public awareness campaign. “Financial abuse, whether you’re talking about ruining her credit, getting her fired or hiding the money, is just as effective in controlling an abuse victim as a lock and key,” Kim Gandy, president of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, told The Huffington Post.”

Womack of The Independent, 03/17/18

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/domestic-violence-abuse-bill-theresa-may-financial-independence-a8260736.html>

“The Green Party has long championed a UBI, which is a non-means tested payment for every citizen, providing the essential financial support we all need. The benefits of UBI have been well discussed; from rewarding unpaid work to giving people opportunity and options in a fast changing world, it would transform society. But **UBI would also transform life for women. By giving everyone financial independence, UBI would ensure no woman is ever dependent on her partner to meet her basic needs. And for those in abusive relationships, one of the barriers against leaving would be removed.** Unlike benefits or wages, UBI payments would be attached to and follow individuals, irrespective of life circumstances or employment status. For women leaving an abusive relationship, there would be no endless forms or waiting for benefit payments in order to access financial help.”

Flanigan of Slate, 01/25/18

<https://slate.com/human-interest/2018/01/the-feminist-case-for-universal-basic-income.html>

“In addition, a UBI (including child benefits) would formally recognize and reward socially valuable labor that people currently perform outside of the paid economy, such as caregiving for children, disabled people, and elderly relatives. The UBI could amount to “wages for housework,” something feminists in the 1970s pushed for. Furthermore, because **a UBI aims to pay all individuals and not households,** it allows people to make decisions about marriage and cohabitation based their intrinsic desires, **not based on tax policies such as the “marriage penalty” that working couples currently face or means-tested welfare programs that withhold benefits from women when their household income increases after marriage.** A further benefit for families? **With an added, guaranteed boost to their income, women in abusive relationships would have the financial security to leave, even if they lack qualifications or credentials** that would enable them to support themselves and their families. **UBI would do more than almost any other economic policy imaginable to make women less susceptible to abuse** both in the workplace and at home.”

Violent Crime:

NCADV, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

<https://ncadv.org/statistics>

“1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime to the point in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.¹ On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.⁹ The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the risk of homicide by 500%.¹⁰ **Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.**² Women between the ages of 18-24 are most commonly abused by an intimate partner.² 19% of domestic violence involves a weapon.² Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.² Only 34% of people who are injured by intimate partners receive medical care for their injuries.²”

Jenkins of The Washington Post, 12/09/18

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/investigations/domestic-violence-murders/>

“The Washington Post found that **nearly half of the women [in the U.S.] who were murdered during the past decade were**, like Parnell and Cisneros, **killed by a[n] current or former intimate partner.** In a close analysis of five cities, about a third of the male killers were known to be a potential threat ahead of the attack... Jackson’s death came with clear warning signs, a killing that played out in slow motion as all of her efforts, and those of law enforcement and the courts, failed to stop what she saw as inevitable. **A Washington Post analysis of 4,484 killings of women in 47 major U.S. cities during the past decade found that nearly half of the women who were killed — 46 percent — died at the hands of an intimate partner. In many cases, they were among the most brutal deaths,** and the most telegraphed.”

Suicide:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

<https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/intimate-partner-violence>

“Having experienced other forms of trauma or violence, such as child sexual or physical abuse or exposure to parental or caregiver IPV, is an important risk factor for perpetrating and experiencing IPV. **IPV is also linked to increased risk for [of] suicide** in both boys and girls who experience teen dating violence (TDV) and **for women exposed to partner violence. These women are nearly five times more likely to attempt suicide as women not exposed to partner violence. IPV is also a precipitating factor for suicide among men.** (Reference: NISVS) Health consequences are significant and important for behavioral, health, and integrated care providers to be aware of. Approximately 41 percent of female IPV survivors and 14 percent of male IPV survivors experience some form of physical injury that may also result in death. Data from U.S. crime reports suggest about one in six murder victims and more than 40 percent of female homicide victims in the U.S. are killed by an intimate partner. (Reference: NISVS)”