



## Letter: Twisting numbers

For the Monitor

Sunday, December 28, 2014

Rep. Dick Marple uses a Cato Institute study to tell us it is better to be on welfare than to work at a median income job in New Hampshire (Monitor letters, Dec. 22). As Cato readily acknowledges, its study puts together a package of assistance packages that a poor family might receive and that its figures represent very few real families.

Cato and then Marple compare the cash value of all the benefits this hypothetical and largely non-existent family might receive to the cash income of workers. Both forget that a large part of the compensation of the median-income family consists of fringe benefits such as health insurance and pension so the comparison they make is not valid. The median compensation is probably well over \$70,000. Adding in government assistance programs available to middle-income families would make the figure even higher.

In making the assumption that there is zero work involved in being on welfare, Cato showed how divorced from reality it is. Some of Ray Duckler's stories have shown that is far from true.

In leaving the reader with the impression that many welfare recipients do not need assistance, Marple actually ignores the Cato study, which says, "Contrary to stereotypes, there is no evidence that people on welfare are lazy or do not want to work."

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Concord