

Marriage is not a government program

Hunter Johnson
REPORTER

The Heritage Foundation, the masterminds behind Project 2025, have made a recent proposal to create “marriage bootcamps” as a solution to the United States’ declining marriage and birthrates.

The plan would cost an estimated \$280 billion and would encourage unmarried couples to participate in relationship education programs for potential financial incentives, with a group marriage ceremony at the end of the program.

The Heritage Foundation argues strong marriages lead to strong families, which leads to a strong society. Children normally benefit from a consistent and supportive household. However, the question isn’t whether families are important or not – it’s whether government-backed marriage programs should be supporting marriage.

They should not.

Usually when people are married, their lives already have a certain level of stability. They have well-paying jobs, access to healthcare and higher education. Mar-

riage is usually the product of stability and not the other way around.

If the government is truly interested in strengthening families, then they should focus on the things that make having a family possible in the first place. The young adults of today face many economic challenges, making the idea of having a family at a young age feel unfeasible.

From the rising cost of housing, paying off student loan debt, expensive child-care and wage stagnation, not getting married isn’t about rejecting commit-

ment. It’s about their financial situations.

A boot camp isn’t going to make rent cheaper.

A seminar about marriage isn’t going to pay off debt.

A group wedding isn’t going to magically make your life more affordable.

There is also the concern about the government’s role in our private lives. Marriage is one of the most personal decisions someone will ever make. When policy starts defining what types of families are “normal” or “correct,” we run the risk of alienating and marginalizing other types of households like single parents or blended families.

Policy should support families as they are and not push one idea as the only acceptable family.

A healthy society does not grow from pressuring marriage and parenting. It grows from stable economic conditions that allow people to make voluntary commitments like marriage, without leaving themselves in financial destitution.

If lawmakers really want to make American families stronger, then the answer is obvious. Make policy to support young and existing families: affordable child-care, accessible healthcare and lower mortgage rates for first-time home buyers.

If you build stability first, then strong families will follow.



PHOTO VIA PEXELS

The Heritage Foundation’s concept of “marriage bootcamps” would allow the U.S. government to play a stronger, more notable role in your personal matrimony, possibly putting non-traditional marriages at risk.

Dating apps may compromise your data

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It’s the season of love and connection! Students across campus and the world are using apps like Hinge, Tinder and OkCupid to start a connection with those in their area.

However, for some, a different match is being made: hackers and your personal data.

Match Group, owners of the forementioned apps, have had over 10 Million dating records across all platforms, as well as internal company documents, exposed by the infamous hacker group known as ShinyHunters.

The group claims they were able to acquire the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) of some users as well as advertising tracking data.

A report from Bleeding-Computer shows they accomplished this by stealing data after compromising an Okta SSO account, a platform allowing users to access various clouds through one sign-in, giving them access to the company’s marketing analytics, Google Drive and Dropbox cloud storage accounts.

The method they used



GRAPHIC BY MIGUEL ORTIZ

Match Group owns many different dating apps which has struggled from this large-scale data leak.

was a combination of phishing and “vishing,” or voice phishing.

Phishing occurs when a target visits a supposedly legitimate website, such as matchinternal.com in the case of Match Group.

“Vishing” happens over the phone, when “vishers” impersonate major organizations like Okta, Google, or Microsoft to access the personal information of those they’re calling.

A statement from Match Group to 404 Media said, “We are aware of claims being made online related to a recently identified security incident. Match Group takes the safety and security of our users seriously and acted quickly to terminate the unauthorized access.

“We continue to investigate with the assistance of external cybersecurity experts. There is no indication that user log-in credentials, financial information, or private communications were accessed. We believe the incident affects a limited amount of user data, and we are already in the process of notifying individuals, as appropriate,” Match Group said.

So, if you are a user of Tinder or Hinge, check your email, as these apps may be

reaching out for further information on how to secure your account.

If you want to make adjustments now, security experts recommend changing your password as well as using two factor authentication or a passkey.

Also, if you receive a call regarding an account you have, it is more often than not a “vishing” attempt, and you should just hang up immediately.

Scams are getting more and more prevalent in the age of AI, and it is important to make sure you keep your data like you keep your relationships: secure.