

EDITOR'S NOTE

This special issue of the *Cato Journal* considers the *Unintended Consequences of Government Intervention* by examining a number of public policies ranging from occupational licensing to the War on Poverty to the minimum wage and public education. The articles in this volume were written in honor of Richard K. Vedder, Distinguished Professor of Economics Emeritus at Ohio University, by his former students and colleagues. Vedder has long focused on the importance of economic freedom for human well-being, and has shown how big government and the regulatory/welfare state undermine individual responsibility, encourage rent seeking, and slow economic growth.

In his opening essay, Vedder reflects on “the current state of political economy” and points to “the disconnect between economic reality and public policy.” When policy starts with a respect for individual freedom and private property rights, and recognizes the limits of government action, then policymakers are apt to enhance markets and foster productivity. That is the challenge the authors in this volume present.

Special thanks go to Joshua Hall and Jason Taylor for organizing the contents of this issue and acting as guest editors. I would also like to thank the authors for their diligence and Tom Clougherty for his skillful assistance in bringing this issue to fruition.

—J. A. Dom