

# Labor shortage solution is to stop paying people not to work: Economics professor

Businesses across America are having a hard time finding workers due to no-work bonuses, Brian Brenberg said

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Fox News contributor and The King's College Professor of Business and Economics [Brian Brenberg](#) showed support for Montana's decision to [stop accepting federal unemployment benefits](#) on FOX Business' "[Varney & Co.](#)"

Thursday. Brenberg said it's not just economical, but "common sense" to pay people to work rather than not to work.

*BRIAN BRENBERG: You just got to stop paying them not to work. That's what Montana's finding. I mean, they've got 25,000 unemployed people. They've got 14,000 open jobs. Stuart, if you have open jobs, the question is why aren't people taking them in?*

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*One of the reasons is because we're paying people extra not to work. And it's not just Montana, it's across the country. I mean, business after business, 40% of businesses, Stuart, say the hardest thing they're dealing with right now is finding people to take open jobs. In the restaurant industry, one in four restaurants are saying, 'My biggest problem is I can't recruit anyone to work.'*

*So stop paying people to not work. You can solve that problem really quickly.*

...

*Businesses do have to bid up their wages to get workers, but they shouldn't be bidding against the federal government, who's handing out expanded unemployment benefits. That's not fair.*

*The problem is we're in this situation right now where businesses feel like they're competing against the federal government, a federal government who talks about being pro-worker and pro-business, and yet it's directly competing with those businesses who need those workers.*

...

*This is not really even economics. It's just common sense. When you have*

*open jobs, seven million open jobs in this country, pay people to work. Don't pay them not to work.*

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