

Our View: Feeling uneasy about Trump keeping it all in the family

Anthony Kuipers/Moscow-Pullman Daily News

Say what you want about President Donald Trump, but he certainly seems like a proud family man.

So much so that his daughter and son-in-law have real and possibly powerful influence on the decision-making in the White House.

Ivanka Trump now has her own office in the West Wing and has attained security clearance, despite not being a government employee. Her husband, Jared Kushner, is Trump's senior adviser.

Somehow this is allowable, as the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel ruled the president's "special hiring authority" means the federal anti-nepotism laws don't apply here. Boy, the president loves exploiting loopholes.

It is yet another example of how Trump is striving to run the country like a business, as it's not uncommon for CEOs to empower their relatives in the company.

Kushner has even said: "The government should be run like a great American company. Our hope is that we can achieve successes and efficiencies for our customers, who are the citizens."

If everything is above board, then the president has the right to lean on his family the same way he leans on his other advisers when running the country.

But it is asking a lot of us to be optimistic about this. We have concerns about family ties trumping important factors like experience and expertise when it comes to the people offering the president advice.

It's easy to imagine President Barack Obama being raked over the coals by Republicans if he did the same thing.

Though we remain cynical, it may not be all bad.

Ivanka and Jared reportedly killed a proposed executive order that would have rolled back Obama administration protections for the LGBTQ community.

And Ivanka reportedly cares a lot about empowering women, even leading a meeting for small business owners. Let's hope this is proof the apple fell far from the tree in that department.

Still, let's not forget that Ivanka's biggest responsibilities until now were her jewelry and clothing line. And we have yet to see how Kushner will respond to questions about White House ties to Russia. Or his to Israel.

Trump's children still have a lot to prove.