

Unions: The Foundation of the American Dream

Throughout history, skilled and unskilled labor workers have toiled under unsafe conditions, earned low and unfair pay, and enjoyed little to no legal protection. It has been evident that many employers, though not all, have exploited their workers since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Unions, in their very existence, help to prevent these atrocities from occurring. Without them, the workplace may return to its rugged beginnings. Unions are the foundation of the American workplace and larger society, as they provide benefits for the workers, the business, and the economy.

The days when Americans had the best interest of other Americans at heart have long since disappeared. Unions provide the support to ensure that workers can avoid being exploited by employers. A sad fact of American business is that most employers are not interested in creating a fair playing field for their employees; but rather believe in a winner-take all mentality. If this was not prevented, the distribution of class standing would be at both extremes – the high class and the low class. If the CEO wages continue to get higher and higher and the workers' wages continue to dip, the line between classes would quickly become crystal clear. Unions ultimately benefit the foundation of America, the working class, and give workers a stronger voice so that they can receive a fair share of the economic growth they helped to create.

No matter how prosperous some businesses and industries become, many would rather ship the jobs overseas than pay their workers an adequate wage. As a result, the United States would quickly transform from an independent reigning nation into a dependent nation. Unions help prevent this tragedy and ensure American workers keep their jobs. This also helps the economy, as it lowers the unemployment rate and stimulates the economy. It guarantees a

sustainable economy where workers are adequately rewarded and have the income they need to purchase goods.

Economic growth is stimulated as workers are rewarded for their productivity. According to a recent survey of 73 independent studies on unions and productivity: “The available evidence points to a positive and statistically significant association between unions and productivity in the U.S. manufacturing and education sectors.” (1) As workers are treated and paid fairly, their willingness to innovate increases. When productivity increases, the business and the overall economy are both stimulated as a large number of goods are produced.

Unions are required for the best interest of the workers, business, and the economy. Unions provided job security, fair wages, and safe working conditions to average workers. They protect the middle class and provide unbeatable benefits to the business. Unions increase worker productivity – benefiting both the business and economy. When worker’s jobs are secured from being shipped overseas, the economy is the ultimate benefactor as the independency of the nation is held safe. In this light, unions are not only a benefit for the country but rather a necessity. Many argue that unions are not needed anymore because working conditions are safe and wages are secured. This may be in many cases, however not all business guarantees these conditions. For those that do not, unions are a stipulation, and the benefits that arise from them are matchless.

Works Cited

Christos Doucouliagos and Patrice Laroche. “The Impact of United States Unions on Productivity: A Bootstrap Meta-Analysis.” Proceedings of the Industrial Relations Research Association. 2004