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The Value of Unions in our Society

Most students and even some adults do not understand what the purpose of unions is, or even what a union is. However, unions are pertinent not only to the working class but to everyone. The word "union" means to join together. Unions are essentially workers joining together to work towards better policies for the workplace, yet the benefits of unions go far beyond just that. Unions are crucial to our society because they can offer a supportive career to people who may not have been able to get a college or university degree, unions boost business, and unions epitomize equality and stand firm against prejudice.

Most parents these days strongly encourage their high school-age children to consider getting a post-secondary education. For the most part, parents have their children's best interest in mind when they influence their children to do this. However, many families do not have this luxury. Twenty years ago, it was not uncommon for people to drop out of high school and still have a successful career. In fact, most people went directly from high school to the workplace, it was the norm. In 2021, things are not the same. For the most part, getting a post-secondary education is what helps secure a successful career and high school students are always being coerced into going to college or university. Many parents did not have the advantage of attending college and this may also be true of their children. This is where unions play a huge part in allowing people to still be successful without a degree or certificate. Unions work to allow blue-collar workers to have an equitable income for the work that they do. Gone are the days where workers slaved every day at work for an income that would barely support their family. Now, people can work at a job that pays enough for them to support themselves and (depending on the job) their dependents without having to worry about paying off student loans, due to unionization. Thanks to unions, blue-collar jobs are not seen as less important than white-collar jobs and allow people without the means to attend college to be compensated properly for their hard work.

Unions not only help blue-collar workers but also boosts business in general. One of the main reasons businesses encourage unionization is because the company realizes that by allowing workers to have a voice in the workplace, have a fair income, and by improving workplace policies that workers will consequently feel more valued at work and therefore will want to remain employed at their company. One of the most important things to workers in their job is feeling respected and valued. Unions almost always achieve this. When a worker feels valued, they feel like part of the team and not just another brick in the wall. Moreover, if the company works in retail, this will boost sales. Workers will go to their jobs wanting to do a good job for the company that treats them properly. Not only will the workers feel appreciated, but so will the customers of that company. Happy workers plus happy customers will almost always equal a booming business.

The final reason why unions matter is because they are the epitome of equality. Everything that a union provides to a worker is a fundamental argument of equality. For this reason, unions prove they are firmly against all types of discrimination and prejudice. The main purpose of unions is essentially fair treatment for all. Since unions all go by this fundamental rule, this means they stand firmly against discrimination. When workers unionize, no one is left behind to have to fend for themselves, they all get that same equal treatment that unions provide them. No matter their race, religion, gender, or beliefs, they all get equal

pay, fair treatment, and good workplace policies if they are in a union. This makes unionization one of the first steps toward a business condemning prejudice and embracing equality.

In conclusion, unions are of value to our society because they can provide a sustainable career for people who did not or could not attend college or university, they improve business and the overall happiness of workers, and because they stand against discrimination and encourage equality.