

American Postal Workers Union of MA Essay

Over the last decade unions have been criticized by conservative and right-wing groups for being the cause of corporate problems. These accusations when further scrutinized, hold no validity and are merely attempts to dissolve America's unions. I have always known that unions exist to aid workers, but it was not until I took my AP economics class during my senior year that I learned that unions greatly benefit the economy.

When unions create higher wages for employees, firms are faced with higher production costs because of increased wages. Union wage pressure generates managerial actions that increase worker productivity (the utilization of new technology) and justify the higher union wages. By increasing productivity and subsequently reducing costs, products become more affordable and mass consumer spending occurs, which stimulates the economy.

Unions also benefit the American economy by maintaining jobs for their workers. When non-unionized workers are faced with undesirable employers and working conditions, they often resolve their problems by leaving their jobs. Unionized workers however, use communication to correct job dissatisfactions, which allows more workers to retain their jobs; as a result, a higher retention rate in the workforce increases efficiency by giving a firm more experienced and thus more productive employees.

Finally, because of union insistence on the use of seniority in such matters as promotion and layoff, worker security is enhanced, which allows for workers who are more skilled to share their experience with less skilled workers on the job. Such informal training increases the quality and productivity of the firm's workforce; moreover, it reduces the costs of production and improves the economy.

unions undoubtedly benefit individual workers, firms, and the entire economy. American unions have come a long way since their beginnings in the nineteenth century, and even though participation in them has faltered in recent years, they will certainly stand strong and help the United States economy prosper for years to come.