

My father is quite possibly one of the most intelligent people that I have ever met. He is knowledgeable about any conceivable topic and has always been much better at Jeopardy than the rest of my family combined. However, he was never exactly the type of person who enjoyed sitting in a classroom memorizing useless information. He was always much more of an outdoors person. Thus, for him higher education was not exactly an amazing fit, but being a bricklayer was. He loves his job and being able to point out buildings and say, "I built that." This has been an amazing career for him. However, not that long ago, this career unfortunately would not have been enough for him to take care of our family. It has only been through the influence of unions that this career has been a feasible option. Through union influence, my father has received health care, job security, living wages, and most importantly, a voice with his employers. Without unions, my family would not be where we are today. In fact, without unions, millions of workers would still be subject to exploitation, and thus the world would not be the amazing place it is.

My mother is also a proud union member. She is a special education teacher for San Lorenzo Unified School District. As a member of the California Teachers Union, she too has received the countless benefits of unionization. She is also an incredibly intelligent woman. She could have done whatever she wanted in life, and could have just focused on making as much money as she possibly could. Instead, she chose a career where she can help others. And while many teachers are still woefully underpaid, it has only been through union influence that she had the opportunity to work to help the lives of others.

In short, my family, and even this country, owes a lot to unions. Without them, workers would still be exploited mercilessly and there would likely be no safety regulations whatsoever. And while there are certainly still aspects of workers treatment that need attention, it is safe to say that unions have made huge strides in the lives of people all around the work. While my family may not be absolutely rolling in extra money, we do fairly well for ourselves, and we owe all of it to unions.