

## Organized Labor

A privilege of living in the United States is working within organized labor. It is the one thing that binds workers together into a union and ultimately gives the workers a voice. This power given to workers as a whole has allowed people more freedom to make choices for themselves and for their families. It also helps with working conditions because the workers can express themselves and come to an agreement about their environment. Organized labor has helped almost all workers across the nation and had specifically made an impact on my life.

My father is a loyal member of the BAC 3. He's been a member of the union for over ten years. It has since then made sure to give my father equal status among his fellow peers. The union ensured his vacation time, health insurance, the correct amount of wages, and gave him a choice to voice his opinions of any problems that would arise. *With the type of job he does, which is strenuous laying of tile and physical labor, he* needs this assurance just in case something happens.

One example of organized labor that has directly helped me would be very recently. I had to get all four of my wisdom teeth extracted which included medication and surgery bills. Luckily, my mother and father were both under organized labor institutions which ensured health insurance for themselves and their children. So, through the combined insurance of my mother and father, I was able to cover costs of all bills without difficulty. I had no problems during the surgery and am now healing progressively. If it weren't for organized labor, I wouldn't have had enough money to

cover my surgery expenses and would have had to wait, which would have allowed my wisdom teeth to grow larger and cause more problems in the future.

I am currently a full time student at San Jose State University and understand all the responsibilities that come with it. With the help of organized labor, I am still able to be covered under both my parents regardless of my age. Being twenty years old, I have already seen how hard it is to be granted access to insurance and other privileges in the work force, but because of organized labor, I feel like my future is bright. I have no fears of finishing my education and getting a job because I know there is organized labor out there that would look out for me and my future family.