

Organized Labor and Its Benefits for Me

As I close on ending my academic career at California State University of Sacramento I have come to appreciate all the benefits the union has provided for me. Becoming an anesthesiologist has been a goal of mine for several years. This is a process of continuous schooling and hard dedication. It requires a Bachelors of Science degree followed by years in medical school. If it weren't for the union supplying both of my parents with a substantial income I may have never been able to embark on my journey to becoming an anesthesiologist.

My grandfather was fortunate enough to be employed by the Bricklayers Union. This privilege allowed for my father and uncle to have a comfortable life style supplying them with the education needed to also be employed by a union. My father has now been employed by the Local #444 AFSCME for many years and is nearing retirement. His employment with the union has provided both my family and I with a comfortable income, medical and dental benefits, and vacation pay. Along with my father, my mother is also employed by the union, the Benicia Teachers Association union. Their income combined has allowed for me to enter the California University school system, thus helping me further endure in my goal of attending medical school.

As my father nears his retirement he knows he will continue to be supplied with an income from retirement pay. This income will allow him to assist not only me, but my sister, who is now nearing the end of her high school career, with her college tuition as well. My uncle, a member of the Union Steward for the United Parcel Service, has been retired for a couple of years now and is also able to live with the benefits of the union's

retirement pay giving him the time and pleasure to enjoy life and visit with his grandchildren.

The union has done many wonders for my family and I. It has not only supplied my parents with a reasonable income to properly raise three children, but with the medical and dental benefits, and the vacation pay so our family can remain our healthy lifestyles. Without the necessary benefits my parents obtain by being employed by the union, I may have never been provided with the tuition assistance that both the BAC and my parents have supplied me with to achieve my goal of becoming an anesthesiologist.