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Extra Credit

Low Wage Long Beach

There are several types of low wage job market in the Long Beach area such as hotel service, storage area workers, etc. First of all, the firms and companies that hire low wage workers do so in the first place in order to exploit them. Not only those companies pay low wages, they do not provide health care and other benefits to low wage workers. Without health care, workers who get injured from work cannot treat their illness properly and their health worsens as they work without getting treated. It is also interesting to note that most of the people who get hired for low wage positions are minorities, such as African American, Asians, Latinos, etc. Minority people working in low wage jobs make them more vulnerable to exploitation and also make the workers feel weak and powerless against ill-treatment they receive from their work.

Companies know well enough that these workers will not demand for their benefits because the workers are in situations where they need money badly, they cannot find other works, or even if they manage to demand for additional benefits, they run a risk of getting fired from the companies. Low wage jobs do not require intensive training and replacing workers is not hard so companies would rather fire someone who would complain about their work environment rather than grant them benefits. Low wage workers take low wage jobs because they lack skills or education to get higher paying jobs. Those workers are also in poverty and with low wages, they cannot earn enough money to rise to upper class and so they end up stay working for same low paying job for long time because that is all they can do. Working in low wage jobs not only demoralizes the workers but their

Some of the effort to improve working conditions in the region is forming the workers’ union. By creating a union, workers can voice their opinion and actually have a stance against their companies against the exploitation. Unlike individual worker, firms cannot fire everyone in the union because that will also damage the company’s profit as well. Forming the union is a difficult step but once it is created, it can improve the condition of the work place drastically. However, forming union is difficult and companies will do everything in their power to stop union from forming in the first place. Forming union is very similar to history of Native Americans, African Americans, and Latinos. It is like fighting against all odds where the fight is seemingly impossible. However, as history has shown, it is not an impossible task. Low wage workers have to work hard and do not give up for their rights.