



Hired Values Statement: Reduce Income Inequality

Since the 1970s, low wage employees have seen little growth in wages in spite of overall rising productivity in the U.S. economy. Median family income has failed to keep up with average income, as 70% of the rise in average family income went to the top 1% of families. Unfortunately, there are no simple answers to correct this growing income inequality.

The best way to improve a worker's wage is through upward mobility and promotion. The most effective method to help someone in the low-wage income brackets move to a higher wage is through well designed job training programs. With the proper training job seekers could acquire skills needed in the labor force. Employment counselors can help job seekers manage the job search process and learn job retention skills needed in today's demanding work environment.

Another area that is seriously lacking for our future job seekers is equipping our youth with skills and credentials needed for today's working environment. Vocational education and a network of apprenticeships could help young students prepare to enter the work force. Opportunities should be available for those who are unable to further their education by attending college.

Another necessary method to reduce inequality is to change the wage structure of public and private corporations and institutions. The government could change tax incentives so that business executives would be motivated to raise the bottom salaries and make sacrifices at the top levels of management. Also reducing the tax burden on lower and middle wage workers could induce workers to work more productively and diligently.

Government should not avoid its role of providing community resources and stimulating community involvement for the well being of all citizens. Federal and state governments also have to blend their power and their creative interaction with the for-profits and nonprofit arenas. The well being of all workers and their individual contributions in the workplace are essential to America's prosperity.