



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

THERE ARE RISKS OF DISABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH GLOBALIZATION ISSUES

There should be worker health and safety protections as a result of economic globalization negotiations.

A forum was held by the Economic Policy Institute on “Globalization’s Widespread Harm to U.S. Workers”. An author of a book on the subject of the impact of globalization on workers among the world population and in the U. S was the keynote speaker at the forum. Economists and labor policy experts attended the event.

Summary

It is argued that for U.S. business, to be competitive in global markets, it must compromise labor costs. Associated with labor costs are protection of workers’ health and safety. Clearly, worker health and safety is an expense to business. Capital flows to where it can create the most wealth and low labor costs is central to wealth creation for investors in global markets Thus, economic competitive for U.S; businesses would benefit from negotiating a lower common denominator of workers’ health and safety of the world

Disability Prevention

Worker health and safety of workers in America is subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Agency of the U.S. Department of Labor. Oversight and enforcement has been less than adequate in protecting the health and safety of workers in America to reduce costs so American businesses can remain competitive in the world economy. There is evidence that over 15 million people in the U.S. are disabled as a result of poor back conditions and arthritis of which many disabled conditions are associated with unhealthy work conditions. Prevalence of disability among nurse’s aids is over 10% and nearly 20% for meat packing workers due to unhealthy working conditions. Poor standards of worker health and safety compromise life expectancy and life quality. Health of workers’ should be protected to prevent diminished health that may result in disability. Thus, worker safety should be part of the economic globalization debate.

Intervention

A letter was written and a post-forum discussion was held with a labor policy expert to comment on health and safety of workers, as a result of globalization

Recommendation

There should be worker health and safety protections as a result of globalization negotiations to prevent diminished health and disability.