



Curbing Corporate Power: Ensuring Worker Power

What is the problem?

In the 1950s wages grew in tandem with the economy and nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of all workers were unionized which gave workers significant power to demand and get better wages, hours, benefits, and working conditions.

Since the 1980s, with the rise of monopolies and concentrated corporate power, private-sector employers have fought against unions, passed right-to-work laws to paralyze worker movements, and have successfully steered wealth towards shareholders over stakeholders. Unions have long been a vehicle—especially for people of color—to the middle class.

Furthermore, when local labor markets are dominated by one employer, that employer essentially sets wage rates for the area, giving workers less choice and making it even more difficult to secure a living wage and benefits.

We welcome your thoughts on:

- What protections and rights are most important we ensure are protected for workers? What are the distinctions for workers of color?
- What are the biggest barriers preventing workers of color from organizing unions?
- How can we leverage the COVID-19 response to minimize corporate power and promote the power of people of color?

Resources:

- Check out [this study](#) for Congress that examines Union Membership trends in the United States and The Center for American Progress's [report](#) does a deep dive into showcasing how unions made the middle class.
- Alliances like [Athena](#) are pushing back on the unfettered power of corporations like Amazon, demanding federal policy that puts people first.