

Collective Bargaining Makes a Difference: the United States vs. the Rest of the World

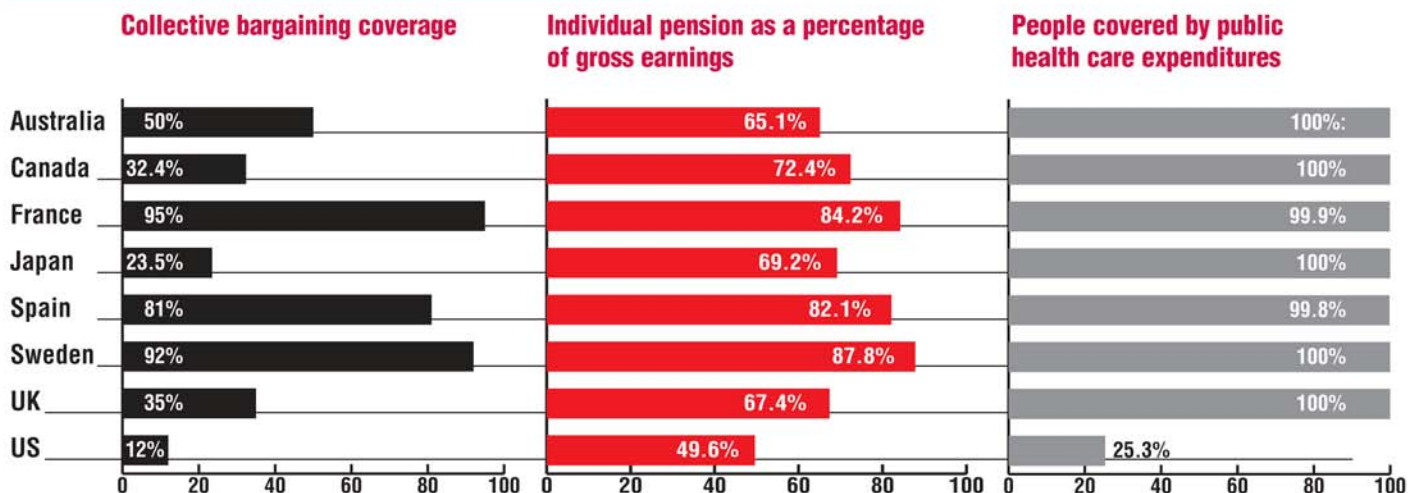
Why do 46 million people in the U.S. have no health insurance? Why do fewer than 50 percent of workers have any kind of pension?

The answer: Because just 12 percent of U.S. workers have collective bargaining rights — and less than 8 percent in the private sector. It's no coincidence. As the percentage of workers covered by collective bargaining rights in the United States has dropped, from a high of 35 percent, so has the quality of our health care, retirement security, vacation and other leave policies, and worklife issues.

The rest of the industrialized world — and many developing countries — have laws and public policies to promote collective bargaining. The United States is going in exactly the wrong direction. The predictable result: working and middle class people are losing ground.

Here's something else to think about. Countries with full bargaining rights and positive worker policies — like France, Belgium, Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands, to name just a few — also have higher productivity than the United States.

How Does the United States Stack Up?



Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Think about it. We need the Employee Free Choice Act.

Communications Workers of America



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