**Resolved: A just government ought to recognize an unconditional right of workers to strike.**

**COVID DA –**

**Framework: Public Wellness. In any just society, it must be recognized that it cannot continue on when there is an unprecedented wave of sickness. There must be measures in place to protect public health, as it is the role of any just government to keep its citizens healthy, and thriving.**

Observation 1 - while this case is not US specific, it is important to recognize most carding and historical evidence is US based. The narrative of this case outlines that in order to be a ‘just’ republic, per the resolution, the US government would have to support the unconditional right of workers to strike

Burden: As per the resolution presented, there are a few burdens of the affirmative:

1. The affirmative has the obligation to prove the government must permit workers to strike under any conditions deemed necessary by the workers. This is *intrinsi*c to the resolution in its very wording, meaning if the affirmative claims there are certain *conditions* to the striking, they are violating the ‘*unconditional’’ part of the resolution*

Contention 1: COVID and striking

We are a world in crisis: “ The U.S. has reached a worrying [plateau](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-19-vaccine-doses.html) in its COVID-19 vaccination coverage, with just [half](https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations?country=USA) of the population fully vaccinated. This coincides with pandemic fatigue, or weak compliance with COVID-19 risk-mitigation measures such as masking and distancing, and the highly infectious Delta variant, which accounts for [more than 83 percent of infections](https://fortune.com/2021/07/21/delta-variant-covid-cases-states-where-its-most-prevalent/). We’re at an inflection point in the pandemic, with coronavirus infections soaring by about 140 percent in the past two weeks.” [Gostin, 21](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/vaccine-mandates-are-lawful-effective-and-based-on-rock-solid-science/) It is clear this pandemic will continue to stretch and devastate. As it stands now, most major governments are currently attempting to mandate workers to COVID vaccines. However, as we have seen from news broadcasts and even within our own classrooms, there is vocal disapproval with these measures. Many of the unvaccinated are protesting against such mandates, and this is clearly a crisis of public health. The affirmative, recognizes those workers who go on strike against the vaccine mandate.

Contention 2: Violating ‘Unconditional’

in order to uphold the ‘unconditional’ part of the revolution, the affirmative must allow for all aspects of the workforce to strike, without automatic denial, consequence, or mandates which implicitly trigger a strike which couldn’t be recognized at the same time as acknowledging the strike as legitimate. Those are incompatible. So, what happens when the strike threatens the fabric of society, posing whole industries to collapse? The government *must interfere.*

A.) History of Mandatory Striking Interference- in 2001, then President Bush issued an executive order preventing workers across the airline industry from striking.

The New York Times reported on March 10, 2011 [https://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/10/business/bush-issues-order-preventing-strike-by-airline-union.html], “'This announcement looks very antilabor,'' Charles B. Craver, a professor of labor law at George Washington University, said. ''Whether it was meant to be, I don't know. But it certainly gives the impression that the White House is coming out in favor of management rather than being neutral.'' “In the case of Northwest, Mr. Bush used his power under the Railway Labor Act,, to appoint a presidential emergency board if the union and the airline do not reach a settlement by the strike deadline of Sunday midnight. Under the law, Northwest's mechanics, who are seeking a wage increase, must stay on the job for 60 days while the three-member emergency board prepares a report and makes a settlement recommendation. - NYT

If either side rejects the board's recommendation after the 60 days, the union can strike or the company can lock out its workers. But Congress also has the power to impose a settlement, something it has frequently done in the rail industry.” Governments cannot accommodate a strike that threatens its population’s way of life, it is not within their interest.

B.) Inevitability of strikes: This is not some hypothetical I am discussing, but the reality we live in now. And world governments are already getting a little bit twitchy about the supply chain being interpreted. The trucking industry also has been confronted – the Cincinnati Enquirer reported on Sept 27, 2021 [https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2021/09/27/patriot-shutdown-september-27-mandate-protests-ohio-highways/5881121001/], “Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters warned over the weekend that any demonstrators participating in a nationwide call on social media such as Facebook and TikTok for truck drivers to participate in a "Patriot Shutdown" would be put behind bars. "I want to be perfectly clear," Deters said in a news release. "Anyone who attempts to shut down the highways in Hamilton County will be removed from their vehicles, charged with felony disrupting public services, and they will go to jail. "To those who claim to be supportive of law enforcement – law enforcement is not with you. This would pose a serious danger for our first responders and the community at large. "I have always been supportive of a citizen’s First Amendment right to protest. But, this is not lawful and it is reckless. It will not be tolerated." Vaccine mandates have been announced at hospitals, universities and public schools across the region, with employees and college students required to be fully vaccinated in the coming weeks and months.   The city of Cincinnati asked its workers to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccine status by Tuesday, though employees who refused didn't face disciplinary action. City officials last week pushed back a mandatory testing requirement by nearly a month.”

<https://www.gobytrucknews.com/trucker-strikes-november/123>

Although this is the words of one man, it is indicative of the larger problem: COVID based striking places violence on the sectors of public health and public safety: The affirmative is clearly in a bind – either they permit airline pilots and truck drivers to strike against COVID vaccine mandates and risk the economic and social impacts associated with doing so AND increase the duration everyone endures this pandemic with increased risk to viral mutation \*\* OR \*\* they violate the unconditional nature of the worker strike as was done in 1997 and 2001, which negates the resolution.

Extra Carding- \*\*If needed\*\*

<https://nypost.com/2021/10/28/37-of-unvaccinated-workers-would-quit-job-over-mandate-survey/>

“About 37 percent of unvaccinated workers, representing almost 5 percent of all US adults, said they would quit their job rather than comply [with vaccine mandates], the survey found.

When the option to be tested weekly is removed, a whopping 72 percent of unvaccinated workers said they would leave their job before [complying with an employer-issued mandate](https://nypost.com/2021/10/12/southwest-ceo-gary-kelly-blames-biden-for-vaccine-mandate/), according to the survey.”