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Submission date: 06-Apr-2021 04:23AM (UTC-0500)

Submission ID: 1551764503

File name: aviation.docx (13.46K)

Word count: 357

Character count: 2027

Labor Issues in Aviation

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Labor Issue in Aviation in United States of America (USA)

The airline industry requires an intensive labor input for the management, flights control, and the service delivery while on board. According to Airlines for America (2021), the industry is able to circulate over 1.7 trillion dollars in the economy while offering more than ten million jobs in U.S. However, the U.S is facing huge labor issues, especially with the workforce.

Following the global coronavirus pandemic, there has been a drastic drop in the demand in air transport due to the various containment measures put in place. This has posed a threat to the firms' viability and many jobs have been at stake. Many firms have suffered a technical bankruptcy or are unable to substantially retain the workers one had before the pandemic (OECD, 2020). This has resulted to dismissal of workers without pay or going for a forced leave without a clear resumption date. Departments have been consolidated and put under single management, thereby making some top management staffs lose the jobs. Some firms have been operating on loans in order to remain in business, since there are employees who still require to be paid.

These situations are in most cases unpredictable, and the government of United States of America should come up with policies prioritizing the whole aviation industry in order to protect workers and the business as a whole. The government's interventions should target productive companies and allow exit of the non-viable ones in order to enhance reallocation of resources, striking the balance between allowing downsizing and ensuring public resources are efficiently utilized (OECD, 2020). In this way, it will smoothen the shift for dismissed workers, where the schemes of job retention protect the income of workers in aviation industry. These schemes should be adjusted to target, not only viable jobs, but jobs with high risk of termination. The focus of the support in aviation industry should be for all workers and not for specific jobs.

References

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