

Coal to a Cure

In the state of West Virginia, masculinity has pushed men to involve themselves in careers that are dangerous and detrimental to their long-term health. The most prevalent of these industries is that of coal mining, which causes lung disease and poses many operational risks to the workforce. As a state lawmaker it is my duty to create better jobs and lifestyle habits for my constituents.

The legislation to combat this problem would come in two forms. First it would create a program to train and enroll unemployed coalmine workers in nursing school. The second part of this program would fund incentives and tax breaks to businesses in the hospitality and caretaker industries, as well as hospitals that employ retired coalmine workers.

By funneling these workers - mostly men - into jobs typically comprised of a female workforce, the stigma surrounding these jobs would begin to erode. The perception of men and their involvement with the elderly, sick, and young would change throughout society as a whole. These positive effects could translate to other industries throughout the state of West Virginia.

The ultimate goal of this proposal is to lessen the health risks imposed on men and subsequently their children. Men who would leave the work of coal mining and instead work in healthcare would not only eliminate the ill effects of working in coal mines, but would also increase their health consciousness in a general sense. These benefits would be passed on to their children, which is an intended benefit and catalyst of this proposal.

The populous of West Virginia would be, on average, healthier and more health-conscious. Furthermore, the increased level of employment would benefit the economy and other industries.