**We negate.**

**Our Sole Contention is Creating Jobs.**

Alex Schneider ‘18 of NPR finds that the US economy grew by 3.5% in the third quarter of this year.

*While the economy is making record progress, further job growth is necessary for three reasons:*

**First is** **alternative factors.** Patti Domm ‘18 of CNBC reports that, due to external factors such as the trade war, the economy is expected to lose steam in 2019, emphasizing the need for further prioritization of growth.

**Second is a lack of job opportunities.** While many economists believe that we are at full employment, Jim Puzzanghera ‘18 of the LA Times reports that right now the Labor Department counts people as employed if they did any paid work at all during the week in which their survey is conducted. This means any part-time or temporary workers are counted as fully employed. When taking these factors into account, Investors Business Daily ‘17 quantify that the unemployment rate is actually at 7.9 percent, concluding that “there is clearly still a need for pro-growth policies to get millions of workers back to work.”

**The third reason is underemployment.** Jim Edwards ‘18 of Business Insider reports that, due to a lack of job opportunities, Americans are forced to take jobs below their qualifications. Edwards finds that, while the number of underemployed Americans has decreased due to recent progress, millions continue to suffer.

*Fortunately, these problems would be solved by prioritizing economic growth.*

Suhas Abbas ‘14 of the University of Karachi finds that a 1 percent increase in economic growth reduces unemployment by 1.6 percent because businesses expand during times of economic growth, increasing the need for workers.

*Unfortunately*, Nate Kamrany ‘13 of the Huffington Post writes that prioritizing the debt through spending cuts and tax increases would reduce demand and investment in the economy. Less demand reduces investment by companies, forcing them to lay off workers.

*This would disproportionately harm those at the bottom of the income ladder.* Dean Baker ‘17 of the Huffington Post writes that, if the labor market does not further tighten, less-educated workers and marginalized minorities will not obtain jobs.

*Prioritizing growth RIGHT NOW is crucial - while the impacts of debt are uncertain and happen far in the future, allowing unemployment to fester leads to irreversible losses in economic productivity.*

*Specifically, the longer someone is out of work, the less likely they are to find a job, as their skills deteriorate over time.* Akash Loungani ‘10 of the Globalist quantifies that being unemployed for just six months reduces a person’s chance of finding a job from 33 percent to just 10 percent, locking low-income populations into permanent cycles of poverty.

**There are two impacts.**

**First is intergenerational poverty.**

Crucially, the NBER ‘05 concludes that a one percent increase in unemployment increases poverty by 0.7 percent. This has lasting effects, as Ben Casselman ‘16 of Fivethirtyeight writes that children in poverty are twenty percent less likely to find a job later in life. Crucially, Sandro Galea ‘11 of Columbia University writes that poverty in the United States kills 133 thousand people every year.

**Second is higher wages.**

According to Jared Bernstein ‘17 of the Washington Post, when labor markets are tighter with more employees, workers have increased bargaining power for higher wages. In fact, the Wall Street Journal ‘18 finds that real wages have increased by 1.4% in the past year alone. This wage growth is not contributing to inflation, as Chris Rugaber ‘18 of Fox News reports that US wholesale prices only rose by 0.1% this past month, signalling that inflation is in check.

Crucially, the NBER ‘05 concludes that a ten percent increase in wages decreases poverty by two percentage points.

*Not only does increasing wages lead to immediate reductions in poverty, but it also permanently restructures the economy in favor of the people.*

Daniel Weeks ‘14 of the Atlantic writes that low-income people lack the funding to effectively advocate for their needs, while Mudland ‘11 of Georgetown University concludes that with a weaker lower and middle class, the government tends to operate poorly as the wealthy use their disproportionate power to secure special favors, worsening outcomes for those who need it the most.

**Thus we negate.**