

As Heritage's Senior Policy Analyst in Labor Economics, James Sherk researches ways to promote competition and mobility in the workforce instead of erecting barriers preventing workers from getting ahead.

Sherk joined Heritage in 2006. His recent writings address ways to help unemployment insurance recipients return to work more quickly, why labor force participation has dropped during the recession, and the economic consequences of raising the minimum wage.

Sherk's work showed that federal employees make significantly more than comparable private-sector workers. This research attracted widespread national attention and contributed to the decision of President Obama and Congressional leaders to suspend scheduled across-the-board pay increases for federal workers.

Sherk's work on labor reform formed the basis for legislation allowing union members to earn pay increases above their union rate. Under current law unionized employers may not pay individuals above the union rate without the union's permission. The House of Representatives held a hearing on the Rewarding Achievement and Incentivizing Successful Employees (RAISE) Act, and the Senate voted on it.

Sherk frequently appears before committees of Congress to testify on labor policy issues. His commentary and analysis appear in such publications as the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Times*, *Business Week* and *Roll Call*. Such news networks as CNN, CNBC, Fox News and PBS have featured his commentary on pressing labor issues.

Sherk completed graduate studies at the University of Rochester, where he received a master of arts in economics with a concentration in econometrics and labor economics. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich.

Sherk, whose hobbies include hiking, reading and cooking, resides in Arlington, Virginia.