



# AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation  
of Labor and  
Congress of Industrial  
Organizations**

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April 19, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Senate Committee on Health,  
Education Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy, M.D.:

The undersigned national and international unions strongly urge you to support the confirmation of acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su to serve as the next secretary of labor. Acting Secretary Su is exceedingly qualified for the position and has the substantive knowledge and management experience to continue her important work as head of the Department of Labor.

Su brings vast experience to the job, as a worker advocate, the secretary for the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency and then as deputy secretary at the Department of Labor. Throughout her career in government, Su has worked with a diverse set of stakeholders with different perspectives and concerns, from worker advocates to small businesses.

Deputy Secretary Su worked hard to make sure compliance information was readily available for employers seeking to obey the myriad laws and regulations administered by the department. She recognizes both the opportunities and the limitations of enforcement at an agency that administers more than 180 federal laws, covering 150 million workers and 10 million workplaces.

Together with former Secretary Marty Walsh, Acting Secretary Su worked tirelessly to carry out the mission of the Labor Department. Under their leadership, the Department helped promote equity and economic empowerment for communities across the nation, revitalizing workforce development partnerships, and helping more Americans get good-paying jobs and a path to the middle class.

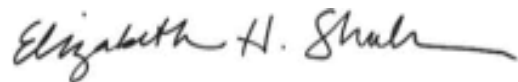
Acting Secretary Su has also demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting workers and ensuring that our workplace laws are enforced fairly and expeditiously. Her work as a private sector civil rights attorney representing vulnerable garment workers subjected to horrific exploitation and as a public official in California give her a unique perspective on the challenges workers face across the economy every day.

Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy  
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Given her extensive background, we believe she is well qualified to address emerging workplace issues, like automation and artificial intelligence, while simultaneously ensuring that the agency continues and expands its core functions—combating wage theft, unsafe working conditions and discrimination on the job. At every level over decades, acting Secretary Su has tackled a constellation of complicated workplace issues, always delivering results for the people she serves.

As the daughter of Chinese immigrants, Su has been a trailblazer for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, but also for worker advocates fighting for equality and civil rights. Acting Secretary Su’s resume and accomplishments on behalf of workers speak for themselves. She is an ideal candidate for labor secretary, and we urge you to support her confirmation.

In solidarity,



Elizabeth H. Shuler  
President

Jason Ambrosi  
ALPA

Stuart Appelbaum  
RWDSU-UFCW

Michael Baldwin  
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Matthew Biggs  
IFPTE

James Callahan  
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Richard Lanigan  
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HFUI

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TCU-IAM

Donald Marcus  
MM&P

Robert Martinez Jr.  
IAM

Mark McManus  
UA

Ray Menard  
AGMA

Sara Nelson  
AFA-CWA

Terry O'Sullivan  
LIUNA

Marc Perrone  
UFCW

Leonard Pugliese  
AFSA

Brian Renfro  
NALC

Cecil Roberts  
UMWA

John Samuelson  
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Rich Santa  
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Lee Saunders  
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CC: All Members of the US Senate