The Honorable Patrick McHenry  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Leader Jeffries:  

The undersigned organizations write to share our opposition to H.R. 4957, The Department of Labor Succession Act.  

Under current law, 29 U.S.C. Section 552, if the confirmed Secretary of Labor dies, resigns, or is otherwise removed from office, then the confirmed Deputy Secretary of Labor becomes the Acting Secretary of Labor. This provision provides for continuity of government and ensures that the Department has a leader fully empowered to make sure that it continues to operate in a manner that is fully consistent with its mission to protect the wage earners and workers in this country.  

When Secretary Marty Walsh left office on March 22, 2023, the duly confirmed Deputy Secretary of Labor, Julie Su, became the Acting Secretary under this provision. As the Government Accountability Office has confirmed, she may hold the role of Acting Secretary until a successor is appointed.  

Acting Secretary Su was confirmed by the United States Senate with the knowledge that should Secretary Walsh leave his post for any reason, she would become the Acting Secretary until someone else was appointed.  

While some may not like that Acting Secretary Su is holding this role, largely because of the success she has had over the years protecting the rights of workers in California and across the country, that is not justification to nullify a law that serves the Department well and provides for steady leadership and continuity of government.  

A sound law of general applicability should not be nullified because some hold personal animus toward a duly confirmed Deputy Secretary of Labor.
Should The Department of Labor Succession Act be brought to the House floor, we urge Members of the House of Representatives to vote No.

Sincerely,

A Better Balance
AFL-CIO
American Association of University Women
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO
CA NOW
Care in Action
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for WorkLife Law
Central New York National Organization for Women
Chapel Hill NOW
Charlottesville NOW (National Organization for Women)
Citrus County FL NOW
Civic Ventures
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Coalition on Human Needs
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
CWIT- National Center- TBII
Economic Opportunity Institute
Economic Policy Institute
Endangered Species Coalition
Equal Rights Advocates
Farmworker Justice
Fayetteville Chapter of NOW
FL National Organization for Women
GA NOW
Greater Orlando NOW
Human Rights Campaign
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers
Jobs to Move America
Jobs With Justice
Justice at Work Pennsylvania
Justice in Motion
KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change
League of Conservation Voters
Lee County (FL) National Organization for Women
Workplace Justice Lab@RU
Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic