

October 4, 2023

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

Legal Aid at Work
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Miami NOW
MomsRising
Morgantown NOW
National Black Worker Center
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center for Women's Equity in Apprenticeship and Employment at Chicago Women in Trades
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health
National Council of Jewish Women
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA)
National Employment Law Project
National Education Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Organization for Women
National Organization for Women - Oregon Chapter
National Organization for Women (NOW), Jacksonville chapter
National Organization for Women, Lee County Chapter
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
Ni-ta-nee NOW National Organization for Women
North Carolina NOW (National Organization for Women)
Northwest Workers' Justice Project
NOW of Greater Marion County
NOW Suffolk
NW Workers' Justice Project
Philadelphia Unemployment Project
Pinellas County National Organization for Women
Public Citizen
Public Justice
Public Justice Center
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Sciencecorps
SEIU
Shore Area NOW
Tampa NOW
Unemployed Workers United
Unemployment Law Project
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Washington Wage Claim Project
Worker Justice Center of New York

Workplace Justice Lab@RU
Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic