

Dear Members of the United States Senate,

We write to express in the strongest possible terms our organizations' support for Julie Su to be the next United States Secretary of Labor. At a time when the role could not be more critical to the nation's well-being, there is no better person than Julie Su to lead the Department of Labor. Since July of 2021, Ms. Su has served as the Deputy Secretary of Labor, where she has shaped every aspect of the agency's effort to protect and defend the rights of our society's most vulnerable workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. She's served as a trusted partner to Secretary Walsh, and the seniormost operational leader of the agency's 16,000 federal employees and \$14 billion-plus budget. With her outstanding performance and steadfast leadership, Deputy Secretary Su has earned and maintained the trust and respect of her colleagues in federal government, as well as key stakeholders and leaders within unions, worker organizations, businesses, and civil society. As organizations that protect, promote, and defend the rights of society's most vulnerable people, we give our strong and unreserved support to Julie Su to be the next Secretary of Labor.

Deputy Secretary Su's impressive record extends to her time before serving as the Deputy Secretary of Labor. As the Secretary for the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the largest state labor department in the country, Deputy Secretary Su led an agency of more than 11,000 employees with a \$26.4 billion budget. In this role, she oversaw worker safety, paid leave, and jobless benefit programs for nearly 20 million Californians. Over the course of nearly ten years in office, Deputy Secretary Su developed a track record of reinvigorating labor agencies to deliver on their mission. She redefined effective labor law enforcement through targeted, industry-specific investigative approaches, responsive partnerships with labor unions and worker organizations, creative public education campaigns, and smart relationships with employers and industry associations. Her deep familiarity with the systemic barriers faced by low-wage workers, who are often immigrants and people of color, has allowed her to pioneer successful new approaches to combating the scourges of worker misclassification and retaliation. Her nuanced understanding of the intersections between racism, sexism, and labor exploitation will be urgently needed in a role that has significant responsibility for bringing greater gender and racial equality to U.S. workplaces.

Before her time in California government, Deputy Secretary Su spent fifteen years at Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (formerly known as Asian Pacific American Legal Center), where she was known for combining impact litigation with multi-racial organizing, community education, policy reform, coalition building, and media work. She was among the lead counsel in a federal lawsuit that held brand name garment manufacturers and retailers liable for the slave labor conditions of subcontractors' sweatshops, obtaining a multi-million dollar settlement, and earning the workers involved legal immigration status. The cases she litigated, in addition to her legislative advocacy, helped spur the passage of AB633, a landmark law that ensured brand name retailers would be held responsible if the garment

workers who sewed their apparel experienced wage theft. Her work also paved the way for new immigration remedies for human trafficking survivors.

As a woman of color who grew up in an immigrant household, Deputy Secretary Su embodies a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She has also received the MacArthur "Genius Grant" and has been named one of the "Fifty Most Noteworthy Women Alumni" of Harvard Law School. She has spent her career passionately advocating for marginalized workers and managed and built the most diverse team at the highest levels of state government in the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. It is a critical time for the leadership of women and people of color in our country, and Deputy Secretary Su is a proven leader who will represent and promote equity, equal opportunities, and inclusion for all.

We applaud Secretary Walsh for the many efforts he championed to promote and defend the rights of low-income, minority, and immigrant workers with Deputy Secretary Su's thoughtful and tireless partnership and support. In President Biden's statement celebrating Secretary Walsh's service, he rightly noted that he has "gone to bat for working families every day." He did so with Deputy Secretary Su at his side, and we can't think of a better successor as we collectively rebuild our economy with worker dignity and power as our guiding principles. We strongly and unreservedly support Julie Su to be the next Secretary of Labor.

Sincerely,

A Better Balance

APIAHF

Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)

Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

Awood Center

Bet Tzedek Legal Services

Black and Brown United in Action

Brazilian Women's Group

Building Skills Partnership

CA API Legislative Caucus Institute

California Employment Lawyers Association  
California Rural Legal Assistance  
Care in Action  
Catholic Migration Services  
Center For Asian Americans United For Self Empowerment (CAUSE)  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Worker's Rights  
Central American Resource Center  
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante  
Chinese Progressive Association  
CLEAN Carwash  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Connecticut Shoreline Indivisible  
Connecticut Voices for Children  
Cornell University Labor Law Clinic  
CRLA Foundation  
Economic Policy Institute  
Equality California  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
FishPotterBolanos, LLC  
Florida Policy Institute  
Global Labor Justice-International Labor Rights Forum  
Good Jobs First  
Greater Boston Legal Services, Employment Law Unit  
HEAL Food Alliance  
Hospitality Training Academy (HTA)  
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative  
Immigration Hub  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Jobs with Justice East TN  
Justice at Work Pennsylvania  
Justice in Motion

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Kakalec Law PLLC  
KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress  
Kentucky Equal Justice Center  
KIWA  
La Raza Centro Legal  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
Maintenance Cooperation Trust Fund  
Make the Road NY  
MassCOSH - Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health  
Michigan Immigrant Rights Center  
Migrant Clinicians Network  
MomsRising  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Lawyers Guild Labor and Employment Committee  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for New Americans  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
New Immigrant Community Empowerment  
New York Taxi Workers Alliance  
North Carolina Justice Center  
Northwest Workers' Justice Project  
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates  
One Fair Wage  
Oxfam America  
Pacific Asian Counseling Services  
Polaris  
Public Justice  
Public Justice Center  
Resilience Force

Santa Clara County Wage Theft Coalition  
SEIU  
SEIU/CWA retired  
Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Silver State Equality-Nevada  
Still Waters Anti-trafficking Program of the Reformed Church of Highland Park Affordable Housing Corp  
Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative  
Sur Legal Collaborative  
TakeRoot Justice  
The Legal Aid Society  
Three Oaks  
UC Irvine Workers, Law, and Organizing Clinic  
UCLA Labor Center  
UndocuBlack Network  
Unidad Latina en Accion CT  
UnidosUS  
United We Dream  
Voces de la Frontera  
WeCount!  
Worker Justice Center of New York  
Workplace Fairness