

August 2, 2021

Member of the United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

The undersigned organizations submit this letter of enthusiastic support for Dr. David Weil, who has been nominated to serve as the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Wage and Hour Division (WHD). Dr. Weil would bring an extraordinary wealth of knowledge and experience to this position. Workers protected by the laws within the Wage and Hour Division's jurisdiction would be well served by his leadership.

We know this because he previously served as Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division at the United States Department of Labor under President Obama from 2014 to 2017.

In addition, he has advised government agencies at the state level as well as international organizations on employment, labor, and workplace policies. Because of his deep level of expertise and depth of experience with the WHD, he can hit the ground running from day one and make sure that the WHD vigorously enforces the laws within its mandate.

Dr. Weil also understands the importance of collaboration with and input from all of DOL's stakeholders, including workers, their advocates, and members of the business community. During his past tenure with the WHD, he and the Division engaged in extensive outreach to employers and their associations, and collaborated with them on compliance assistance, education, and outreach.

The WHD plays an exceedingly important role for workers all across the country. Unfortunately, wage theft is all too common of a problem in industries of all kinds, but especially those which tend to employ low-wage workers.

Black, immigrant, and other workers of color are particularly prone to wage theft and usually lack the power within their workplaces to hold employers accountable and lack the resources to hire an attorney to help them remedy the violations. Because so many states either have no wage and hour office, or have one that is barely staffed and funded, the DOL's WHD is often the only place workers can turn to enforce their rights to fair pay and other important protections such as those offered by the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Overseeing the WHD is an awesome responsibility and a somewhat herculean task. DOL needs a strong administrator to ensure that workers are paid the wages they are owed and allowed to exercise their rights under the FMLA, and in David Weil, DOL will have that kind of administrator.

Dr. Weil's focus on strategic enforcement, geared toward cleaning up industries in which there are high rates of violations, as well as his deep understanding of all the complex relationships businesses have with their workers, make him uniquely well-suited to run the WHD at a time when there is ever increasing complexity in the workforce for both workers and employers.

Moreover, his knowledge of and respect for the different roles of Congress and DOL will also make him an exceptional administrator. Dr. Weil understands that it is Congress' job to promulgate the law and the WHD's responsibility to implement the law, consistent with Congressional intent. He was clear about that in his confirmation hearing, and will be faithful to that during his tenure at DOL.

The Wage and Hour Division is one of the most important enforcement agencies that workers across the country depend on to protect their rights on the job. They need and deserve an expert administrator at the helm of the agency, and in Dr. David Weil, they will have that person.

We urge Senators to vote yes on this important nomination.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
A Better Balance
Buchanan Law Firm, LLC
Build Commonwealth, Inc.
Center for Food Safety
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for WorkLife Law
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.
Charlotte Powley
Child Labor Coalition
Civic Ventures
Coalition of Labor Union Women, AFL-CIO
Coalition on Human Needs
Coalition to Protect Workers' Rights
Communications Workers of America (CWA)
Economic Policy Institute
Equal Rights Advocates
Family Values@Work
Freedom Network USA
Greater Boston Legal Services
In the Public Interest
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Jobs With Justice National
Justice at Work
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Legal Aid Justice Center
Missouri Faith Voices
Missouri Jobs with Justice
National Consumers League
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Women's Law Center
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Workers' Justice Project
Oxfam America
People's Parity Project
ROC ACTION
Sciencecorps
Service Employees International Union
Transport Workers Union of America
Tzedek DC
United Steelworkers
Workplace Fairness