

#UNIONSMATTER

HIGHLIGHTS OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ACTIONS IN THE WORKER ORGANIZING AND EMPOWERMENT TASK FORCE IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

The White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment, under the leadership of Vice President Kamala Harris as chair and former Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh as vice chair, has released an update outlining the progress agencies have made in implementing the 70+ recommendations in the first Task Force report. The latest update shows that substantial progress has been made, that implementation of many action items is completed, and agencies have taken additional actions beyond those in the report to support worker organizing and collective bargaining. The full update can be found [here](#).

Fully one in five Task Force action items have involved work by the Department of Labor, underscoring the Department's central role in supporting and promoting worker empowerment because of its [importance to the Department's mission](#) to protect and improve the lives of workers. In addition to implementing its own action items, the Department has collaborated with other agencies on their initiatives to support worker organizing and empowerment.

Some highlights of this work include the following:

- Launching the first-ever online [Worker Organizing Resource and Knowledge \(WORK\) Center](#), a one-stop resource for workers, employers, students and others on unions, the union advantage, and the positive impact unions have on all workers, businesses and our economy.
- Developing a [Know-Your-Rights toolkit](#) with flyers and social media resources to help ensure that workers have information on their organizing and bargaining rights, and attaching know-your-rights requirements to federal grants, where appropriate. This initiative will help [close the gap](#) between the large percentage of workers who would like to have union representation (52%) and the small percentage of workers who say they have information on how to form one (10%).
- Updating [www.worker.gov](#), a plain language website with information on key worker rights, including expanded information on [organizing and bargaining rights](#) and protections against [retaliation](#).
- Collaborating with the Small Business Administration, the National Labor Relations Board, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service on the first-ever [SBA resource guide](#) for small employers on workers' organizing rights and employers' legal obligations.
- Collaborating through the Department's Good Jobs Initiative with the Department of Commerce on [Good Jobs Principles](#), which include respect for workers' right to organize.
- Strengthening memoranda of understanding between several agencies (e.g., Office of Labor-Management Standards, Wage and Hour Division) with the National Labor Relations Board to better share information and improve enforcement of workers' rights.
- Expanding outreach and education on employers' and consultants' obligations to file reports on expenditures made for activities to persuade employees regarding unionization, and increasing [efforts to obtain compliance](#) with this reporting obligation.
- Re-establishing a [Labor Management Partnership Program](#) to highlight the benefits of labor-management collaborations through collective bargaining and other partnerships.
- Together with the State Department and USAID, creating the [Multilateral Partnership for Organizing, Worker Empowerment, and Rights \(M-POWER\) initiative](#) to strengthen democratic labor unions around the globe.
- In collaboration with the Office of Management and Budget, creating a [Contract Labor Advisor Group \(CLAG\)](#) of career agency labor advisors in federal agencies across the government, so these procurement officials can work together to more effectively implement worker protections in federal contracting and ensure that federal contract dollars help support workers' rights.

These initiatives, together with actions by other federal labor agencies such as the NLRB and FMCS' [first contract initiative](#) to help the parties reach an initial collective bargaining agreement when workers first organize, and FMCS' offering of [free card check services](#) to employers and unions, carry out President Biden's directive to agencies to find ways, using their existing authority, to support worker organizing and empowerment.

A full listing of the Task Force action items and the status of their implementation can be found in the latest Task Force [update](#).



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR