

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to urge you to nominate Julie Su as 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, she has our strong and unreserved support 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-Los Angeles 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.

President Biden, you have pledged to make your cabinet the most diverse in history with leaders who look like and reflect the breadth and diversity of our country. As a woman of color who grew up in an immigrant household, Deputy Secretary Su embodies that diversity and shares your commitment to

racial equity. 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 your statement celebrating Secretary Walsh’s service, you rightly noted that he has “gone to bat for working families every day.” He’s done 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 urge you to nominate Julie Su to be the next Secretary of Labor.

Sincerely,