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June 26, 2025

The Honorable Lori M. Chavez-DeRemer  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

Thank you again for testifying before the Education and Workforce Committee hearing on "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Labor." Enclosed are additional questions submitted by Committee members following the hearing. Please provide a written response no later than July 28, 2025, for inclusion in the hearing record. Responses should be sent to Daniel Nadel ([daniel.nadel@mail.house.gov](mailto:daniel.nadel@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-3873) of the Committee staff. We appreciate your contribution to the work of the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Walberg".

Tim Walberg  
Chairman

## Questions for the Record for Lori Chavez-DeRemer

### Committee on Education and Workforce Hearing “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Labor” June 5, 2025

#### Chairman Tim Walberg (R-MI)

1. Beginning in 2011, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) began to implement formulary exclusions that require patients to pay completely out-of-pocket for a drug or undertake a lengthy appeals or exceptions process. Formulary exclusions have grown 961 percent—from 109 drugs to 1,156 drugs—from 2014-2022. To what extent do formulary exclusions limit patient choice and drug access?
2. When PBMs’ compensation is tied to the list price of a medicine, this can lead to PBMs disfavoring generic or lower-priced brand competitors. PBMs continuously say that lowering drug costs for patients is a top priority. Would you consider reviewing a reform idea that would break the link between PBM compensation and the list price of medicines to benefit patients in meaningful ways, such as through increased coverage of lower cost alternatives such as generics or biosimilars?
3. On May 15, 2025, the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor (DOL), and Treasury (Tri-Agencies) issued a statement announcing they will not enforce the 2024 *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* Final Rule. The non-enforcement is in response to a legal challenge by the ERISA Industry Committee regarding the lawfulness of the 2024 rule and is expected to remain in place for at least 18 months after a final decision in the lawsuit. According to the non-enforcement policy, the Tri-Agencies are reexamining the broader parity enforcement approach.

Aspects of mental health and substance use disorder law and regulations remain overly complex and technical. As a result, compliance has become a moving target through a patchwork of unclear and often conflicting guidance. The proliferation of differing compliance approaches, tools, and interpretations has led to confusion and strains on government, health plan, employer, and provider resources. Will you commit to working with health plans, employers, and other interested stakeholders to streamline the parity compliance process?

4. The President has promised “radical price transparency,” and I hope to see new regulations soon requiring group health plans that are subject to the *Employee Retirement Income Security Act* to finally let patients know what the price tag will be for their trip to the hospital or just a routine doctor’s visit. This initial price for patients before they go to the doctor is called an “advance explanation of benefits” and has been the law since the end of 2020. Can you update us on where these new regulations stand at the Employee Benefits Security Administration?
5. The tree care industry continues to rank among the most hazardous in the country, with a

fatality rate that far exceeds the national average. At the same time, it plays a vital role in protecting critical infrastructure—maintaining powerlines and roadways, supporting wildfire prevention, and responding to hurricanes, winter storms, and other disasters. Despite these responsibilities and risks, there is still no dedicated Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard tailored to the unique hazards of tree care operations. Instead, employers must navigate a patchwork of general industry standards that were not designed for arboricultural work. This fragmented regulatory approach creates confusion, results in inconsistent enforcement, and ultimately undermines safety for workers performing essential public-facing services. During the first Trump administration, OSHA completed the *Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act* panel process for a tree care operations standard. That process produced strong recommendations and a clear path for advancing the rule. However, the Biden administration repeatedly delayed publication of a proposed rule, despite longstanding bipartisan calls for action. At a May 2025 hearing before the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, Members of Congress again raised concerns about this delay and heard testimony emphasizing that a properly crafted standard would not impose new regulatory burdens. Rather, it would replace the current patchwork with clear, practical requirements—consolidating and improving existing regulations to better protect workers in this high-risk field.

- a. Does DOL consider completion of a tree care operations standard a priority?
  - b. What steps are being taken to move this standard forward?
6. OSHA’s injury and illness recordkeeping system, including its recordability criteria, was established in 1971. Do you believe it would be prudent to evaluate the OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping to ensure they appropriately meet the needs of today’s employers and workers?
7. Physical therapy treatment, when delivered for work-related injuries, is currently classified as medical treatment, triggering its recordability under OSHA reporting requirements. Despite physical therapy’s advantages, the current system inadvertently discourages proactive injury prevention, ergonomic intervention, and rehabilitation by penalizing employers and employees for pursuing recovery or prevention through physical therapy. Would you be willing to evaluate rescinding physical therapy intervention as an OSHA recordable event to ensure U.S. workers are receiving low-cost, highly effective intervention for injury prevention and recovery while concurrently reducing the administrative burden of U.S. employers?
8. Enacted in 1927, the *Federal Longshore and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act* (Longshore Act) provides for the payment of compensation, medical care, and vocational rehabilitation services to employees disabled from on-the-job injuries that occur on the navigable waters of the United States, or in adjoining areas customarily used in the loading, unloading, repairing, or building of a vessel. The Longshore Act (through the *Defense Base Act*) also applies to employees of companies performing Department of Defense contracts.

Under current law, the Longshore Act holds employers that are subject to it responsible for hearing loss that occurred before and after employment, as well as loss caused by non-work-related employment or loss due to the natural aging process. However, OSHA and most state-level workers' compensation laws permit a reduction in claims value based on age-related hearing loss. Will DOL consider a review of its administration of the Longshore Act for the purposes of updating its processes and recommending to Congress any legislative changes it considers necessary?

9. On April 23, the President signed an executive order affirming that his administration is committed to utilizing apprenticeships to expand the American workforce—including directing DOL to submit plans by this summer to facilitate enrolling at least 1 million new apprentices. One of the tools to support apprenticeship programs has been the use of “industry intermediaries” which allow sectors to tailor programs and outreach based on practical knowledge and the specific needs of its employers. What role will intermediaries play in DOL’s overall plans to support and expand apprenticeship programs?

**Rep. Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA)**

1. Madam Secretary, can you explain how you see career and technical education (CTE) playing a role in achieving the President’s Executive Order on Preparing Americans for High-Paying, Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future, including increasing pre-apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships through CTE programs?

**Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-WI)**

1. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, OSHA’s proposed rule adopts a one-size-fits-all approach to heat illness and injury prevention, applying identical requirements across indoor and outdoor environments and across all sectors, including agriculture, construction, and manufacturing, without differentiation. This broad application fails to consider critical distinctions in worksite conditions, tasks performed, or industry-specific risks. How does OSHA justify imposing identical obligations on such a broad and diverse range of workplaces, regardless of differences in work tasks, physical environments, industry risks, or business size? Shouldn’t the final rule recognize and account for the distinct operational realities of sectors where heat is a controlled byproduct of indoor production rather than an ambient environmental exposure?
2. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, the proposed rule’s rigid acclimatization requirements are another example of its inflexible, one-size-fits-all approach. Mandating a specific phase-in schedule for all new or returning workers, regardless of industry, workforce composition, or existing safety practices, fails to recognize how acclimatization is already effectively managed in controlled indoor environments like manufacturing. For example, many manufacturing facilities already use tailored onboarding, cross-training, and seasonal protocols to manage exposure. OSHA needs to address the operational and financial burdens this inflexible framework imposes on manufacturing sectors, where staffing challenges and continuous operations leave little room for a rigid acclimatization

schedule. Shouldn't OSHA consider allowing employer-determined acclimatization protocols that still meet the rule's safety objectives but offer greater flexibility based on industry context?

3. The Federal government has an obligation to effectively manage taxpayer dollars and ensure all Federal programs are efficient and mission driven. The Job Corps Program is no exception. As part of the *A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA)*, Congress and Job Corp stakeholders have proposed several reforms to the Job Corps program estimated to save the taxpayer tens of millions of dollars per year and unlock key partnerships with our nation's top employers. Reforms would also address concerns identified by the Department of Labor's Job Corps transparency report.
4. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, does the Department of Labor support the reforms to the Job Corps Program proposed as part of the *A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA)* in the 118th Congress?
5. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, would the Department of Labor support an extension of the Job Corps Program to allow for meaningful reforms to take effect?
6. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, Obama-Biden policies required Job Corps students who have a high school diploma to participate in remedial classes until they test on the Test of Adult Basic Education that they are effectively "college-ready." But most of these students enrolled to get a trade education and become an electrician or a welder, not go to college. How much has Job Corps student attrition increased and graduation rates decreased because of these misguided Obama-Biden policies?

**Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY)**

1. Upstate New York and North Country farmers that utilize the H-2A program in my district consistently express the devastating impact the Biden Administration inflicted on family farms across America due to the March 2023 DOL Adverse Effect Wage Rate methodology final rule. This new methodology has resulted in skyrocketing wages and has created a massive administrative burden for farmers who use the program. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, what steps is your department taking to ensure that wage determinations under the H-2A program are not placing an unsustainable burden on farmers who are already operating on razor-thin margins?
2. Do I have your commitment to address a long-term solution regarding the Adverse Effect Wage Rate and reverse the methodology that took effect in March 2023?
3. Many farmers in my district have expressed concern that the soaring Adverse Effect Wage Rate increases are not only hurting their ability to hire employees but are also making it nearly impossible to compete globally. Has your department conducted a cost-benefit analysis on the long-term consequences of these wildly elevated wage hikes for U.S. agricultural competitiveness?

4. During my over decade-long career in Congress, I have continuously advocated for our hardworking New York dairy farmers to have access to the H-2A program. Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, are you willing to work with Congress on tweaking our agricultural worker visa program to allow for year-round visas?

**Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA)**

1. Experts recognize that misaligned incentives in the drug payment system encourage PBMs to favor medicines with high list prices and larger manufacturer rebates or discounts. However, when PBMs faced criticism over this dynamic, they shifted their compensation models to focus on administrative or other fees, which are still tied to list prices. Isn't this just reshuffling the same flawed incentives? Would delinking PBM compensation from the list price of drugs—so they're paid a flat service fee rather than a percentage of rebates or list prices—help eliminate the incentive to prioritize higher-cost drugs?
2. Alternative funding programs (AFPs) are programs that employers use that involve contracting with vendor to target commercially insured patients taking targeted drugs to shift the cost of covering prescription drugs to third-parties such as patient support and assistance programs. Do you believe that AFPs often lead to lapses in care for individuals with chronic and/or high-cost conditions? Do you believe that employers are aware of the danger AFPs can cause their employees, whether through delayed access to prescription drugs or downright denials?
3. President Trump's Executive Order issued on May 12 directed the Department of Labor (DOL) to issue regulations on prohibited transactions, which would require PBMs to disclose information regarding how they are compensated? How can DOL leverage those regulations to protect employers and employees from non-transparent fees that PBMs extract?

**Rep. Burgess Owens (R-UT)**

1. Research from Credential Engine has identified more than one million credentials—from degrees and certificates to badges and licenses—currently available in the U.S. labor market. Yet employers, educators, students, and workers still lack a clear, standardized way to understand what these credentials actually mean—what skills they represent, how they align with workforce demands, or whether they translate into better jobs and earnings.

At the same time, there is growing interest in modernizing our approach to workforce data through tools like Learning and Employment Records, which can help individuals more easily verify and communicate their competencies throughout their careers. But without consistent, transparent credential data, these innovations won't fulfill their promise.

Can you speak to how improving credential transparency—particularly the use of structured, comparable, and open data about the content and value of credentials—can support skills-based hiring, empower workers to better signal their skills, and enhance the impact of tools like LERs in the workforce development system?

2. In its 2021 FLSA worker classification rule, the Department of Labor included an example specific to the trucking industry. With this example, the Department clarified that a motor carrier requiring an independent contractor to use a device that limits their truck's speed would not affect the trucker's classification, and would not indicate control by the motor carrier, because this requirement is "implemented in order to comply with specific legal obligations and to enhance safety."

This example seems to conflict with the Department of Transportation's approach to speed limiting technology on trucks. Over the past 15 years, DOT has been considering a mandate requiring speed limiting devices in trucks, but has never issued a specific requirement or regulation to do so. Right now, there is no specific legal obligation to use a speed limiting device on a truck. In fact, it seems unlikely that DOT under President Trump would move forward on a speed limiter mandate due to safety concerns expressed by America's truckers.

As you and the Department are considering revisions to FLSA worker classification regulations, would you defer to the Department of Transportation's determinations on what is safe and required for the operation of heavy-duty trucks, specifically with regard to the use of speed limiters?

3. On April 23, 2025, President Trump issued an Executive Order directing the Departments of Labor, Education, and Commerce to identify alternatives to four-year degrees that align with employers' skill needs. With over 400,000 open construction jobs and 40% of the workforce expected to retire within a decade, expanding access to skilled trades is more urgent than ever.

How is the Department of Labor advancing this Executive Order to help more Americans enter these high-demand, well-paying careers?

**Ranking Member Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (D-VA)**

- 1) The Department of Labor has the statutory requirement under Section 503 of the *Rehabilitation Act* (Section 503) and the *Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act* (VEVRAA) to enforce anti-discrimination requirements with regards to federal contract workers who have disabilities and/or veteran status. Under the first Trump Administration, OFCCP successfully initiated focused reviews under Section 503 and

VEVRAA to ensure that federal contractors were providing equal employment opportunities and complying with requirements of these statutes.<sup>1</sup>

- a. What is OFCCP currently doing to ensure that it is meeting its statutory requirements to ensure that federal contract workers are not being discriminated against on the basis of disability and/or veteran status?
  - b. Is OFCCP currently conducting any compliance evaluations or other enforcement activity to ensure federal contractors are meeting their responsibilities under Section 503 and VEVRAA?
    - i. If so, please provide a description of enforcement activities OFCCP is currently conducting with regards to enforcing Section 503 and VEVRAA.
    - ii. If not, please provide an explanation as to why these enforcement activities are not occurring.
  - c. How many complaints alleging discrimination under Section 503 or VEVRAA have been filed with OFCCP since January 20, 2025?
  - d. How many active cases related to claims under Section 503 and VEVRAA are currently being investigated by OFCCP?
  - e. Are workers receiving timely responses and updates regarding the status of their filed claims? What information has been shared with workers who have filed claims about the processing of their claims?
- 2) The President’s FY 2026 budget proposes to eliminate OFCCP and move the responsibility for the enforcement of Section 503 and VEVRAA to other agencies. Under this proposal, what is the plan for the remaining OFCCP staff after any transfer?
- 3) Please provide the following information regarding staffing numbers for OFCCP:
- a. Number of current staff, broken down by office location, who are not on administrative leave;
  - b. Number of staff who have taken the Deferred Resignation Program; and
  - c. Number of staff who were placed on administrative leave and served a Reduction in Force notice.
- 4) Section 159 of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) includes clear requirements and processes for the closure of Job Corps Centers that were not followed in the “pause” announced on May 29, 2025.
- a. How does the Department define a “pause” and how is it different than a “termination”?
  - b. What authority is the Department using to “pause” operations? Please provide a citation for the law or regulation.
- 5) With Job Corps operations on pause, how does the Department plan to fulfill its obligations to implement the *Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act*,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/craig\\_leen\\_-\\_testimony.pdf](https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/craig_leen_-_testimony.pdf).  
<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20201019-0>

2025, which includes \$1,760,155,000 for Job Corps? Does the Department of Labor intend to begin a new bidding process for contracts in order to operate the “paused” centers for FY 2025?

- 6) Please provide a list of every Job Corps center operator contract that has been terminated or modified since January 20, 2025, including the total amount of funds originally awarded to each operator, the amount of funds that each operator has spent up to the date of the contract’s termination or modification, and the amount of remaining unspent funds for each contract.
- 7) On April 25, 2025, the Department’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) released a “Job Corps Transparency Report”, which is cited throughout the DOL press release announcing the pause of operations at centers. However, the report provides cost per enrollee based on enrollment from program year 2023. Please provide an updated cost per enrollee with the enrollments on campuses as of May 28, 2025, incorporating onboard strength at each campus.
- 8) Since the Trump Administration began on January 20, 2025, it’s my understanding that DOL has not completed any background checks, which has led to a complete halt in new enrollments at Job Corps centers.
  - a. Please provide the number of new enrollments on hold due to the cessation of background checks since January 20, 2025.
  - b. Please provide a list of onboard strength (enrollment) at each Job Corps center before January 20, 2025, as well as immediately before the operations pause on May 29, 2025.
  - c. Will you commit to conducting background checks to begin new enrollments in the program?
- 9) The WANTO grants were funded at FY 2024 levels through the *Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025*. How does the Department plan to fulfill its obligations to award those funds? Does the Department intend to release a new FOA for the FY 2025 WANTO grants?
- 10) It’s been widely reported (including by WIRED<sup>2</sup>) that DOGE staffers, including Miles Collins, Aram Moghaddassi, and Marko Elez have gotten access to systems within the Department that contain U.S. citizens’ Social Security numbers. Protecting Americans’ privacy is an incredibly important responsibility, which should not be taken lightly.
  - a. In any instance where the Department has shared data with DOGE, where has the data been stored?
  - b. What processes are in place to ensure U.S. citizens’ and legal residents’ data from DOL is not being copied by Elon Musk and his affiliates?
  - c. Has DOL staff and/or DOGE shared National Farmworker Jobs Program data with other agencies during the Trump Administration?

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wired.com/story/doge-access-immigration-data-department-of-labor/>

- i. If so, who approved sharing the National Farmworker Jobs Program data?
- ii. If so, for what purposes has data from the National Farmworker Jobs Program been shared with other agencies?

11) A recent report from the Department of Labor's Inspector General shows the vast majority of employers and anti-union consultants failing to report persuader activities under the *Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act* (LMRDA). Widespread non-compliance with the LMRDA's reporting requirements for employers and persuaders denies workers critical pre-representation election information—such as who is being paid and how much they are being paid to persuade workers on the question of union representation—and undermines their right to free and fair elections. What concrete steps is the Department taking to increase compliance by employers and their consultants with regard to persuader activities?

- a. Will the Department implement all six of the Inspector General's recommendations in its May 2024 report entitled, *OLMS Can Do More to Protect Workers' Rights to Unionize Through Persuader Activity Disclosure* (May 2024 Report)?
  - i. If the Department declines to implement one or more of the recommendations, please provide a specific explanation for each, stating why the Department will not implement it and whether the Department has an alternative proposal and an explanation of the alternative proposal.
- b. Will the Department implement all six of the Inspector General's recommendations in its May 2024 Report by the end of Calendar Year 2025?
  - i. If the Department will not implement one or more of the recommendations by the end of Calendar Year 2025, please provide a specific explanation of why the Department cannot do so, including resource constraints or the time required for implementation.

12) For more than five decades, the ERISA Advisory Council has served as a valuable resource for the Department of Labor. As you know, Ranking Member DeSaulnier and I wrote to you recently asking for information regarding the status of the Council, which has yet to hold a meeting this year. The Council is established by section 512 of ERISA and is required to meet at least four times per year. The Department is required to support the Council's operations, including by providing an Executive Secretary to the Council. As we await your full response to this letter, I request answers to the following questions:

- a. Will you confirm that you are not considering abolishing the Council or purging its membership?
- b. Will you commit to convening the minimum of four statutorily required meetings of the Council this year? When will the first meeting be held?
- c. According to the Department's website, the position of Executive Secretary is vacant. When do you intend to fill this position, as required by law?

13) The Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) has the vast mission of protecting the health, retirement, and other employee benefits of more than 156 million American workers, retirees, and their families covered by millions of plans holding \$14

trillion in assets. However, EBSA has for decades been severely underfunded, with about one investigator for every 17,500 plans within its jurisdiction. According to recent reports, more than 20 percent of EBSA's workforce has been lost during the first few months of the Trump Administration, yet the Budget proposes to further cut EBSA and neglects to extend the bipartisan *No Surprises Act* implementation funding. This would leave EBSA with just 640 FTEs, a decline of more than 35 percent since 2012 when the agency's mission was much smaller.

- a. How can you vigorously enforce the law—including shared bipartisan priorities such as health care price transparency, surprise medical billing, and improving retirement security—while slashing EBSA's workforce?

14) In 2020, President Trump signed into law the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*, which included important reforms that have improved enforcement of the *Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act* (MHPAEA) by EBSA. Despite the high recoveries EBSA has achieved on behalf of plan participants thanks to this law, the Department has announced nonenforcement of the 2024 MHPAEA final rule while also shrinking the agency's workforce.

- a. Does the Administration intend to further roll back this bipartisan progress on parity by issuing regulations or guidance that would weaken MHPAEA?
- b. Have you analyzed the projected impact of nonenforcement of the law on benefit recoveries for people with behavioral health needs? If so, please provide this information to the Committee.

15) Rep. Ilhan Omar asked you during the hearing, “[C]an you assure this Committee that you will not propose any rollbacks of child labor rules that prevent children from being employed in hazardous occupations?” You did not answer that question; instead, your response reiterated your commitment “to fighting against all child exploitation” and then addressed a separate matter regarding funds for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs. Please address the specific question whether you will commit not to roll back hazardous occupation orders.

### **Representative Haley Stevens (D-MI)**

1. There has been a lot of talk from you and this Administration about supporting American workers, including union workers. It's been less than five months but I think we can safely say that a lot of that talk has proved empty. So far, the Trump Administration has stripped one million federal workers of their right to form a union and has undermined the independence of the National Labor Relations Board by firing one of its board members. I don't see why Michiganders should trust an Administration to protect private sector workers when they treat their own workforce with such disrespect.

I am from Michigan where union membership really means something. We recognize that unions are a path to safe, high-paying, middle-class jobs for working people. I hope that the Administration you're a part of quits talking a big game and actually starts acting on behalf of American workers.

So Secretary Chavez-DeRemer, my first question focuses on the Office of Labor-Management Standards, or OLMS. This office is charged with collecting financial disclosures from employers when they hire anti-union “persuaders” or consultants. Transparency on how much companies are spending on these activities is vital. President Trump has tapped, Elisabeth Messenger, who has a history of supporting anti-union causes to lead OLMS.

- a. In light of this, will you commit that OLMS under your leadership will ensure employer compliance with financial disclosure requirements when it comes to anti-union consultants?
  - b. In fact the Department’s Inspector General found in a May 2024 report that employers significantly underreported and delayed their financial disclosures on “persuader” activity. Will you commit to improving OLMS enforcement on employers’ financial disclosures in line with the Inspector General’s recommendation?
2. I’d like to move on to another issue that often faces workers who decide to join a union: difficulty reaching a first contract with employers. Oftentimes, workers who decide to organize can face significant delays in reaching a first contract with their employer. This only hurts workers and saps employers of valuable resources.
- a. As a former cosponsor of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act during your time in the House, do you recognize the right of a legally formed union to reach a timely first contract with their employer?
  - b. Do you think the Department of Labor has a role to play in making sure workers who have organized are can reach a first contract with their employers?
  - c. I am concerned that current and future budget cuts under this Administration will undermine worker protections, including their right to organize. Will you commit to working with Congress to ensure budget cuts do not negatively impact these rights?

**Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN)**

**Impacts on the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB)**

1. Please provide a list of all ILAB programs terminated by the Department in March 2025, including:
  - a) Project Title
  - b) Country of implementation
  - c) Original duration and funding level
  - d) Congressional authorization
2. What specific criteria or policy rationale was used to evaluate and terminate these grants?
  - a) Are you aware that multiple stakeholders, from [Members of Congress](#) to [labor/advocates](#) to [industry groups](#) have spoken in defense of ILAB?

- b) Were any of these stakeholders consulted or notified before the decision, and if not, please explain how you will prevent a race to the bottom for labor and business practices without these international and on-the-ground partnerships?
  - c) Without these ILAB grants, how will you ensure that U.S. workers and businesses do not face unfair competition from being undercut by exploitative corporations and regimes?
- 3. Please detail any legal review that was conducted prior to termination. Was grant termination evaluated for consistency with appropriations language or statutory mandates under:
  - a) US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) implementing legislation, P.L. 116-113?
    - i. This bill provided \$210 million for ILAB: \$180 million over four years for USMCA-related technical assistance projects and \$30 million over eight years for the capacity of ILAB to monitor USMCA compliance, including the necessary expenses of additional full-time ILAB employees for the Interagency Committee and labor attachés in Mexico. Can you confirm whether those appropriated funds are currently being disbursed on schedule, and if not, why not?
  - b) Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 and the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018?
  - c) Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 and the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015?
  - d) Executive Order 13126, “Prohibition of Acquisition of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor”?
- 4. Did the Department of Labor consult with the following agencies before the decision to terminate ILAB grants, if so, please provide written or summarized meeting notes or correspondence from the following:
  - a) Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)
  - b) Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
  - c) Department of State (including the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons or other relevant offices & attachés).
- 5. How will the Department fulfill its labor enforcement obligations under trade agreements such as USMCA and CAFTA-DR in the absence of ILAB’s grantmaking, technical assistance/research, and on-the-ground partnerships? How will these same obligations be met with a reduced workforce?
- 6. What alternative plans does DOL have in place to support U.S. businesses and suppliers seeking compliance with laws like the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act?
- 7. Please confirm the number of ILAB staff who have resigned, retired, been reassigned, or been fired since January 2025.

8. How many full-time staff currently remain at ILAB, responsible for:
  - a) Trade agreement labor enforcement with USTR
  - b) Country-specific monitoring and reporting
  - c) Forced labor risk mapping and coordination with CBP
9. What is the current operational budget for ILAB for FY25? Has any unobligated funding been repurposed or rescinded? If so, please identify the amounts and new funding designations.
10. Does the Department intend to revisit the decision to cancel these programs and contracts soon or in future budget cycles?

### Impacts on Child Labor Enforcement

1. How many Wage and Hour Division (WHD) field offices have been closed, downsized, or had staffing reductions since January 2025?
2. What is the current number of active child labor investigations being pursued by the Department as of June 2025?
3. What percentage of current WHD investigations involve migrant or undocumented children? Please provide available disaggregated data by industry and state.
4. How many investigators and staff currently specialize in child labor enforcement? Has the number increased or decreased since FY2023 and FY2024?
5. What is the current average caseload per WHD investigator working on child labor violations? How does this compare to previous fiscal years?
6. What is the status of the DOL-HHS interagency taskforce on child labor?
  - a) If it's still active, which offices are involved, and what are its current goals and deliverables?
  - b) If not, what was the reason to dissolve the taskforce, and what are you doing instead to improve interagency coordination and efficacy?
7. Has the Department formally supported any enhancements or modifications to civil or criminal penalty structures under the Fair Labor Standards Act to address child labor violations. Why or why not? What specific statutory changes would the Department recommend to improve deterrence and accountability of unscrupulous employers?
8. What kind of outreach, technical assistance, or enforcement support has DOL provided to local agencies, particularly in states that have experienced substantial increases in child labor violations and/or have rolled back child labor laws?
9. Will the next Solicitor of Labor be directed to prioritize litigation and enforcement of egregious child labor and labor trafficking violations? What directives will be issued to ensure consistent and strong enforcement under the Solicitor's purview?

**Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ)**

1. As the daughter of a Teamster, you know that the right of workers to form a union and collectively bargain is central to improving wages, hours, working conditions, and more. You also know that when workers vote to form a union, they don't immediately reap the benefits of collective bargaining. Instead, they first need to obtain first contract with management who, because the law currently doesn't impose a negotiation deadline, often stall, delay, and drag out negotiations. In fact, according to Bloomberg Law, it takes an average of 458 days for unions and employers to agree on a first contract. This hurts workers who, despite exercising their right to bargain collectively, are prevented from doing so by employers who enjoy the benefits of the status quo. Do you support the idea of a guaranteed first contract?
2. On March 14, 2025, President Trump ordered the dismantling of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), including firing mediators and staff, and closing field offices across the country. FMCS is a small but vital federal agency responsible for helping to resolve contract negotiations between workers and employers. Do you support reversing the staffing cuts to FMCS, which would enable the agency to continue to provide necessary services including mediation for collective bargaining, grievances, and employment disputes?

**Rep. Alma S Adams, PhD (D-NC)**

1. Madam Secretary, I have heard you say over and over again that you support workforce development while your administration is cutting critical agencies like the DOL Women's Bureau. In May, you cut a Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant just up the road from my district. Hope Renovations in Chapel Hill trained women and nonbinary people for construction jobs, which we need more of in North Carolina. After receiving the grant in 2023, Hope Renovations had the rug pulled from under them by your agency. 35 apprentices and 80 interns will not be able to participate in this program because your agency is more focused on fighting "DEI" than it is on strengthening the American workforce and helping North Carolinians get good-paying jobs.
  - a. Please explain to me, Madam Secretary, how eliminating the Women's Bureau and WANTO grants is going to help the American worker.
2. Federal contractors receive hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars and employ 20 percent of the nation's workers. This Administration has dismantled the civil rights framework that protected these workers by rescinding President Lyndon Johnson's historic Executive Order 11246 (EO 11246). The proposed budget eliminates the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) and moves responsibility for enforcing the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act and Section 503

of the Rehabilitation Act, which protect veterans and people with disabilities from discrimination, out of OFCCP to other agencies.

I understand that worker complaints related to disability and veteran status discrimination are not actively being worked on and have been paused since OFCCP was ordered to pause enforcement on January 24, 2025— that is over 4 months.

- a. Are claims being processed? Are investigations going forward?
  - b. When does OFCCP expect to begin working on these cases?
  - c. The FY 2026 budget proposes to eliminate OFCCP and transfer those responsibilities elsewhere, do you plan to indefinitely suspend processing claims related to disability and veteran status until they have been transferred out of OFCCP?
  - d. How is this fair for workers? By stopping enforcement, you are **encouraging** contractors to violate their workers' rights!
3. Because OSHA does not have a heat stress standard, the only way the Department can protect workers from extreme heat is to use the General Duty Clause of the OSH Act. But General Duty Clause cases take more time and resources to prove, and your budget appears to be taking resources *away* from OSHA and the Solicitor of Labor.
- a. Your budget request would reduce the FTEs in OSHA's federal enforcement program by 168 people, is that correct?
  - b. Is it correct that dozens of employees in the Solicitor's Office took the "Fork in the Road" offer to leave the Department?
  - c. And your budget projects that the Solicitor's Office will lose 40 additional FTEs, is that correct?
  - d. Madam Secretary, you are reducing the capacity of the Department to protect workers from heat stress at a time when workers need DOL more than ever.

**Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)**

1. **Job Corps:** On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Department announced a "phased pause in operations at contractor-operated Job Corps centers nationwide."
  - a. Does the Department of Labor intend to re-open these campuses? If so, when?
  - b. Does the Department intend to revoke the original May 29<sup>th</sup> directive to pause Job Corps operations? Will you commit to renew these contracts and to continue Job Corps for FY 2025?
  - c. Will the Department of Labor commit to resuming background checks and new student enrollment for the Job Corps program while Job Corps centers remain open? If so, please provide information on the Department's timeline for resuming background checks.
  - d. How will the Department follow the proper procedure to give the public an opportunity to voice concerns about closing Job Corps centers?
  - e. There are approximately 4,481 homeless students in Job Corps, some as young as 16 years old. The Department has said they will provide transportation to get students to their home of record, but these 4,481 students do not have a home to

return to. How will the Department support these students if the TRO is lifted and the “phased pause” moves forward? Where will the Department send these students?

- f. Did the Department factor in additional costs and lost potential if these students remain homeless, need to rely on more government services, or enter the criminal justice system?
  - g. What is the Department doing to support the thousands of Job Corps staff who are now out of a job because of the “pause”?
  - h. What is the Department of Labor doing to connect state and local governments with resources for communities affected by Job Corps closures?
  - i. In announcing the “pause,” the Department of Labor relied on a report that contains disputed facts and conclusions and relied heavily on data from when the program was still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Who were the authors of this report? Please be specific and include whether each person who contributed to the report was assigned to the Department of Labor by DOGE.
    - i. The report states that the cost per graduate at Job Corps is \$155,600, but a report during the first Trump administration, prior to COVID-19, reported the average cost per graduate was \$57,312. Please explain the dramatic discrepancy between these two figures.
    - ii. The report states that Job Corps students are largely hired in minimum wage positions, earning an average of \$16,695 in annualized wages; however, during Program Year (PY) 2023, Job Corps students were placed in jobs earning an average wage of \$17.13 (more than twice the federal minimum wage) and earned annualized wages of more than \$31,000 on average. Please explain the dramatic discrepancy between these two figures.
    - iii. The report states that the Job Corps graduation rate is 38.7%; however, the National Job Corps Association asserts that the current graduation rate is higher, and historically graduation rates have been above 60%. What is the current graduation rate at Job Corps programs?
    - iv. The Department claims that the report shows that Job Corps is no longer achieving its intended outcomes; however, Job Corps graduates exceeded the wage goals set by the Department in PY 2023. Please clarify the outcomes that Job Corps is failing to meet, as well as evidence from accurate and current data.
    - v. Does the Department plan on doing an updated transparency report with more recent and accurate program data that is reflective of the current Job Corps population?
2. **Make America Skilled Again Block Grant:** Last week, the Trump Administration released its plans to cut nearly every workforce development program administered by the Department of Labor and replace these programs with the undefined “Make America Skilled Again” block grant program. These cuts eliminate funding for both the WIOA Youth Formula program and YouthBuild, a program that would logically be a landing spot for displaced Job Corps students.

- a. What workforce development and pre-apprenticeship alternatives will be available to the displaced Job Corps and YouthBuild students?
  - b. What specific pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship opportunities will the Department provide to meet the stated goal of one million new apprenticeships per year?
  - c. The Make America Skilled Again block grant reduces overall funding for the consolidated workforce development programs by \$4.64 billion. What is the justification for these cuts? How will these funds be distributed to states? Which states will lose the most federal funding under the new grant program?
- 3. Women's Bureau:** The president's FY26 budget eliminates the Women's Bureau, calling it an ["ineffective policy office that is a relic of the past."](#) This includes repealing the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) grant program.
- a. How has the Department determined that the Women's Bureau and its programs are "ineffective"?
  - b. Without the Women's Bureau, how does the Department plan to provide research and support for women in the workforce and address the problems they face, including workplace discrimination, equal pay, paid leave, and child care?
    - i. What is the Department's plan to continue operating the National Database of Childcare Prices, the most comprehensive federal source of child care prices?