



Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI)
Chair
Committee on Education and Workforce

Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA)
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Workforce

February 26, 2025

Chair Walberg & Ranking Member Scott,

On behalf of the Coalition for Workforce Innovation (“CWI”) we submit this statement for support for H.R. 1319, the Modern Worker Empowerment Act (MWEA) introduced by Representatives Kiley (R-CA). This legislation will support individuals who seek independent work throughout the economy by affirming a commonsense and modern worker classification test under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

CWI’s membership represents worker advocates, entrepreneurs, start-ups, businesses, and trade associations that support the modernization of federal workforce policy to enhance choice, flexibility, and economic opportunity for all workers. Our broad and diverse stakeholders showcase healthcare, technology, media, transportation, logistics, and retail sectors where independent workers have gained access to flexible work arrangements that fit their lifestyle. Today’s diverse independent workers span all ages and include part-time students, caregivers, and retirees. These individuals are primarily motivated by finding a source of supplemental income or organizing work around their lives and not the other way around. Independent work also serves as a foundation to small businesses as well as the first step for many new entrepreneurs.

Over the past few years, threats from the Department of Labor (DOL) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) necessitate the need for legislative actions to preserve and protect independent work. The regulatory back and forth between rules favored by changing Administrations undermines stakeholders throughout the economy. Far from providing needed clarity, these efforts continue to create uncertainty for workers and businesses who seek independent work relationships to find wage-earning opportunities, to satisfy consumer demand, and to fortify supply-chain resilience. CWI urges congressional action to provide real rules of the road by supporting the Modern Worker Empowerment Act which creates a clear definition and standard across federal laws to protect independent workers.

CWI is committed to building an economy that works for all types of workers by preserving flexibility and entrepreneurship while protecting against potential abuse. For this reason, CWI

supports common sense congressional action, like the Modern Worker Empowerment Act, that provides support for those who choose to work independently and to fit work within their lives and not the other way around.

To learn more about CWI, please visit www.workforceinnovation.net

Sincerely,

Coalition for Workforce Innovation