



February 26, 2024

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The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I urge you to support the nomination of Julie Su as Secretary of the Department of Labor.

Since her confirmation as Deputy Secretary in 2021 and assuming the role of Acting Secretary in 2023, Acting Secretary Su has provided expert leadership for the needs of America’s workers and employers. Under her leadership of the Department of Labor, our country continues to add jobs and maintain a low unemployment rate. In January 2024 alone, the U.S. economy added 353,000 jobs and our unemployment rate has stayed under 4% for two years.

Acting Secretary Su has continued the Biden administration’s important work started by former Secretary Marty Walsh to increase access to registered apprenticeships, grow our health care workforce and expand youth employment. Acting Secretary Su has brought our economy through uncertain times and helped break the stalemates in negotiations of critical West Coast port workers, health care workers, auto workers and more. These sectors and their workforces have an enormous impact on the U.S. economy. She has made it a priority to enforce our nation’s labor laws and update regulations to tackle the critical labor challenges, such as employee misclassification, child law violations, wage theft, and a host of health and safety hazards. She is the Secretary of Labor our country needs as we continue to grow our workforce and our economy.

Acting Secretary Su has an impressive background prior to her service at the Department of Labor. As Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, she oversaw state departments and boards that enforce labor laws, paid leave, unemployment insurance benefits, fund workforce training and apprenticeship programs, and arbitrate public sector contract disputes. As California Labor Commissioner from 2011 to 2018, she enforced labor laws and ensured fair and just workplaces for employees and their employers. During her impressive service to the state of California, she implemented the laws passed by the legislature fairly and expertly.

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

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As Litigation Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles, the nation's largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, she investigated, litigated and advocated to protect workers and their families. Early in her career in a landmark case, she fought for justice for workers imprisoned in a modern-day sweatshop outside Los Angeles. She also co-founded Sweatshop Watch to counter inhumane working conditions in sweatshops.

Acting Secretary Su has always fought to protect the most vulnerable workers throughout her career and has continued the fight as the Acting Secretary of Labor. She is an incredibly well-qualified, thoughtful and talented public servant who was already confirmed by the Senate in 2021. She has served admirably in the role of Acting Secretary. I urge you to vote to confirm Julie Su for the critical role of Secretary of the Department of Labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edwin S. Jayne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E".

Edwin S. Jayne  
Director of Federal Government Affairs

ESJ:LM:ei

cc: Members of the Committee