



March 9, 2023

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

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

Re: Support of the Nomination of Julie Su to United States Secretary of Labor

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

I write to urge you to support the confirmation of Deputy Secretary of Labor Julie Su as U.S. Secretary of Labor. Su will do a superb job for the nation in that role.

Here at Futures Without Violence, we have had the pleasure of working with Su for many years, first in her role as Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and more recently at the U.S. Department of Labor. We know her to be a deeply principled, exemplary public servant, an inspirational, highly effective leader, and a trailblazer skilled in building consensus and getting things done. She is the kind of leader the country needs.

Su has long been a champion for working people and for the most marginalized among us. Her rock-solid credentials were honed when, as a young lawyer in the 1990s, she fought to protect dozens of Thai garment workers who had been horribly mistreated and enslaved in a sweatshop in El Monte. That work had a lasting impact, improving conditions for many low-income garment industry workers. In the decades since, Su has continued working tirelessly to protect the rights of domestic, immigrant, LGBTQIA+ and low-wage workers and all those who face harassment and violence on the job.

The daughter of Asian immigrants, Julie Su is a fearless advocate for fair pay and benefits, strong anti-discrimination measures, safe workplaces, and an economy that works for us all. Throughout her impressive career, she has been a proud champion for marginalized workers and to secure workplace protections and rights. She understands that safe communities are strong communities in which hardworking families have basic economic security. In all her work, she has centered the wellbeing of women, immigrant and minority workers, and working families.

Research tells us that three in four survivors of domestic violence remain in abusive relationships due to financial insecurity. Conversely, financial stability helps prevent child abuse, because when families thrive, so do children. The ongoing economic fallout from COVID-19 and the shadow pandemic of violence and abuse it created makes centering economic justice and safety imperative right now. At FUTURES, we know progress depends on safe and supportive workplaces that are free from harassment and discrimination; well-paid, secure jobs that create pathways to upward mobility; and social supports including affordable child care and health coverage, paid family and medical leave, and paid safe time.

Julie Su understands all that as well and has spent her career advocating for just that kind of workplace for all of us.

She is truly a transformative figure. If confirmed, Su will take over the U.S. Department of Labor at a time when we are still trying to recover from the pandemic, our workforce is in transition, and we are facing labor shortages and horrifying revelations about companies exploiting migrant children. At this juncture, she is the right choice to lead this critically important Department.

We urge the HELP Committee to offer unanimous support for Su's nomination, and ask you to encourage your Senate colleagues to confirm her. Working people will be well served, our economy stronger, and our country more successful with Julie Su as U.S. Secretary of Labor.

If you have questions, please contact our Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, Kiersten Stewart, at (202) 595-7383 or kstewart@futureswithoutviolence.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Esta Soler,
Founder and President
Futures Without Violence