



**Statement of James R. Murphy, Chairman, National Labor Relations Board
Before the
Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions
Committee on Education and Workforce
“Examining the Policies and Priorities of the NLRB”
June 4, 2026**

Good morning, Chairman Walberg, Chairman Allen, Ranking Member Scott, Ranking Member DeSaulnier, and Members of the Subcommittee. My name is Jim Murphy. Thank you for the invitation to testify today. I am pleased to appear before you as Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

Before President Trump asked me to serve as a Board Member, then as Board Chairman, I spent more than 47 years at the NLRB prior to retiring in December 2021. It is a tremendous honor and a somewhat daunting challenge to return and serve in this new role as an agency head. In doing so, I benefit from the knowledge that every day, the Agency’s employees in the regions nationwide and in our headquarters building work hard to support us in safeguarding the statutory rights of parties subject to our jurisdiction.

As I stated during my confirmation hearing, my immediate top priority upon taking office is to reduce a case backlog pending review by the Board members. That backlog significantly increased in the nearly one-year period when the Board lacked the 3-member quorum required to decide cases. Consequently, when Member Scott Mayer and I were sworn in on January 7 of this year, there were 591 cases pending our review. That number significantly exceeded any Board level backlog in recent times.

I also want to emphasize that I do not view the backlog problem as a partisan issue. Member Mayer and I have worked collaboratively with our colleague, Member David Prouty, to address this issue. We have focused on the common initial goal of prioritizing the processing of oldest cases, representation election cases, and what I have characterized as low-hanging fruit, that is, the more uncomplicated unfair labor practice cases before us.

I am pleased to say that by the end of last week, the Board reduced the overall number of pending cases from 591 to 387. It has done so in spite of the fact that 152 newly arrived cases were assigned, meaning that we have actually disposed of 352 cases in a 5-month period. This production is unprecedented in recent times.

I note that there have been very few dissents in the decisions issued so far. Part of the reason for that is obviously attributable to repeated statements by me and Member Mayer that we will continue to adhere to a longstanding Board tradition requiring a three-member majority to overrule existing precedent. I am sure that many of you may have questions about certain recent

decisions. I will answer your questions to the best of my limited ability to do so, noting in advance that I cannot comment with any specificity about any case pending or about issues that are most likely to be raised in upcoming cases. I must avoid even arguably suggesting prejudgment that would require my recusal from participation in a case.

My goal is straightforward: to promote a Board that works—efficiently, expeditiously, and in a way that earns the confidence of employees, employers and unions. Doing so will best fulfill our commitment to protecting the statutory rights of each while ensuring that our administrative agency processes are cost-effective and accountable.

I look forward to working with this Subcommittee on these priorities. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify, and I welcome your questions.