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July 2, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

I write to request a briefing on the rules recently proposed by the Department of Labor (DOL) and similar actions likely to be proposed in the near future.

The database tracking reviews by the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) of draft agency rulemakings shows that the Labor Department has in recent weeks sent more than a dozen such drafts.¹ Based on the only information available in the OIRA database (namely, the "Rule Title" entry for each rulemaking), the drafts cover a wide territory, from changes to child labor rules to the elimination of federal minimum wage and overtime protections for home care workers. In light of the Trump Administration's launch of a "deregulatory initiative,"² as well as the explicitly deregulatory nature of several rule titles and the context of recent policy history, it appears that DOL is undertaking a series of rulemakings that will roll back existing protections of workers. Additionally, the rulemaking drafts would narrow the Labor Department's implementation and enforcement authority with respect to the safeguards that otherwise remain unmodified. Several of these drafts have now been published in the *Federal Register* as proposed rules which more explicitly reveal DOL's plans to weaken or eliminate basic workplace protections for vulnerable workers.³

During the hearing on June 5, 2025, before the Committee on Education and Workforce, Committee members had not seen or received any information about DOL's regulatory agenda. The hearing, entitled *Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Department of Labor*, serves as the Committee's best opportunity every year to review the overall operations and priorities of the Labor Department. Committee Democrats did ask you about your plans on one of the draft rulemaking topic under consideration, child labor; however, your response did not affirmatively

¹ *EO 12866 Regulatory Review*, REGINFO.GOV (last visited June 27, 2025), <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eoPackageMain>.

² Exec. Order No. 14,219, 90 Fed. Reg. 10583 (Feb. 19, 2025).

³ See, e.g., Amending the Medical Evaluation Requirements in the Respiratory Protection Standard for Certain Types of Respirators, 90 Fed. Reg. 28,463 (July 2, 2025).

state you would oppose rolling back child labor rules. In particular, your testimony was silent about DOL's planned rulemaking in that subject area:

REP. ILHAN OMAR.—Your budget proposal will weaken a historically under-resourced Wage and Hour Division. The nominee to be your Solicitor of Labor wrote a chapter in Project 2025, which literally calls for the rolling back of child labor laws. Madam Secretary, can you assure this committee that you will not propose any rollbacks of child labor rules that prevent children from being employed in hazardous occupations?

SEC'Y LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER.—I commit to fighting against all child labor exploitation. Absolutely in this country, we do not want to exploit our children. Consistent with putting the American worker first, the budget does streamline ILAB, that is one of the ... agency departments that protect the American worker and protect against child labor violations.

The budget provides for about \$70 million to ILAB, including \$38 million in grant funding while restoring ILAB's emphasis on putting the American worker first.

REP. OMAR.—So, that's a long way of you saying *yes*?

SEC'Y CHAVEZ-DEREMER.—I will work absolutely to combat all child labor.⁴

The recent revelation of the draft rulemaking on OIRA's database has spurred our continued, and urgent, request that you detail how you “will work absolutely to combat all child labor.” There is a need for an examination of how your stated commitment to protecting children and workers squares with what appears to be a plan to reduce those very protections. Accordingly, I request a briefing for the Committee's staff within one week of the date of this letter on your regulatory agenda and how this agenda reflects DOL's priorities.

Please send all official correspondence and information related to these requests to the Committee's Democratic staff at EWDOversight@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT
Ranking Member

⁴ CQ Cong. Transcripts, *House Education and Workforce Committee Holds Hearing on Labor Department Policies and Priorities*, CQ (June 5, 2025), <https://plus.cq.com/doc/congressionaltranscripts-8258151?5>.