

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you finalize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include increased funding for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). The continued surge in caseload demonstrates the need to fund the NLRB above its FY23 amount of \$299.224 million.

As you know, the NLRB is an independent agency, created by Congress in 1935 to administer and enforce the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), as amended in 1947 (Taft-Hartley) and 1959 (LandrumGriffin). The Board effectuates the NLRA by protecting the rights of employees to free association and speech, and promoting good faith relationships between employers, unions, and employees nationwide.

We appreciate the Committee's hard work in FY23 to provide a \$25 million increase in appropriations – the first increase in funding for the NLRB in nearly a decade. While the NLRB had hoped for a greater increase, that appropriation allowed the NLRB to absorb inflationary increases in non-labor expenses and staff pay without the need for furloughs. It also allowed for some limited hiring to fill critical vacancies—resulting in an increased number of field staffers the past two years after 11 consecutive years of decline—as well as for critical IT system maintenance.

The continued surge in labor activity and workload for NLRB staff underscores the importance of maintaining robust funding for the NLRB in FY24. For example, from FY2021 to FY2023, the number of field staff increased just five percent while case intake increased 34 percent. The surge in case intake has only continued into 2024, with total case intake increasing by 10 percent in the first quarter of FY2024, relative to the first quarter of FY2023. Additionally, the number of union representation cases filed with the NLRB increased 32 percent, while unfair labor practice filings increased seven percent. The NLRB ended FY2023 with 191 pending cases and, as of January 23, 2024, is up to 242 pending cases – a 27 percent increase in under four months.

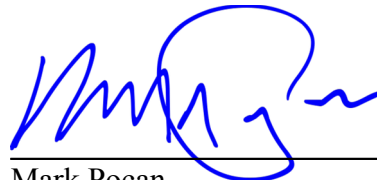
Additionally, we further request that you exclude the rider barring the Board from using appropriated funds to issue any new administrative directive or regulation that would provide employees any means of voting electronically in union representation elections. Everyday commerce, official government business and jobs have been moving online in the past two decades, and it is time to allow the NLRB to modernize its processes and procedures.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



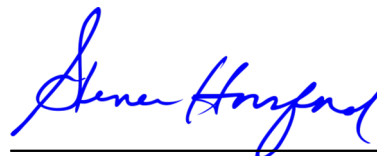
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Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
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Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress
Co-Chair, Congressional
Labor Caucus



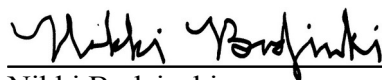
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