

November 30, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Leahy, and Chair DeLauro,

The Worker Power Coalition and the undersigned organizations ask you to fully fund the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), by increasing funding in FY 2023 to at least \$368 million. As you know, the NLRB has not seen a funding increase since 2014. Due to inflation alone, this leaves the Board significantly underfunded. Beyond that, the NLRB has seen a large uptick in the number of filings for union elections and investigations into Unfair Labor Practices. Despite the best efforts of the staff and leadership, the current funding level has left the Board understaffed and unable to handle its growing workload.

[Favorability for unions is higher than it has been in decades](#), and workers are moving to organize at record paces. Tens of millions of workers would join a union today if they had the option. Yet as this wave of organizing is sweeping the nation at stores like Starbucks, Apple and Amazon, billionaire CEOs attempt to [crush](#) these efforts, [threaten](#) and [fire](#) employees for standing up for their rights at work. In fact, **employers are charged with violating the law in 41.5% of all union elections.** The NLRB exists to enforce the National Labor Relations Act, which guarantees rights for most private sector workers to organize and collectively bargain. Without increased funding, the NLRB will remain unable to adequately monitor free elections, investigate violations of the law and judge abuses where they occur.

Between FY 2021 and FY 2022, union election petitions to the NLRB increased 58%. In the same time period, Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charges increased by 14%. These workers are simply expressing their rights to form a union as guaranteed by federal law. **The field staff at the NLRB has been cut by 37% since 2014 – and 50% since 2002.** This severe understaffing means that the Board is unable to adequately service the needs of these workers. In fact, the [NLRB staff union itself claims](#) “the agency no longer has the resources to adequately enforce its mission.” Even in union drives where employers do not commit ULPs, [delays related to understaffing have a chilling effect](#) on workers exercising their rights.

The [Worker Power Coalition](#) is a collection of labor unions, grassroots organizations, worker advocates, think tanks, environmental activists, and more. We are united with the

goal of strengthening the labor laws in our country - including passing the PRO Act and strengthening existing labor laws. Adequately funding the NLRB is a key step toward ensuring workers are able to claim their rights in the workplace. **By increasing annual funding for the NLRB to at least \$368 million, Congress will better ensure that workers are able to express the rights granted to them by the National Labor Relations Act, free from the threat of intimidation and losing their income.**

Sincerely,

American Income Life

BlueGreen Alliance

Broward for Progress

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

CommonDefense.us

Communications Workers of America

Democratic Socialists of America

Economic Policy Institute

Family Values @ Work

Greenpeace USA

Harvard Graduate Students Union - UAW Local 5118

IFPTE Local 98

In Union USA

Indivisible

International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)

Jobs With Justice

Labor Network for Sustainability

MoveOn

National Employment Law Project

National Partnership for Women & Families

Our Revolution

People's Action

People's Parity Project

Rideshare Drivers United

Service Employees International Union
Sunrise Movement
The Workers Circle
The Worker Power Coalition
UAW Community Action Program, Massachusetts
Unemployed Workers United
United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of Amer
United for Respect
United Steelworkers
Voices for Progress
Working Families Party