

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Small business support for the nomination of Julie Su

Dear Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

As a leading representative of America's 33 million small businesses, Small Business Majority writes today in support of the nomination of Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su to serve as the next Secretary of Labor.

Small Business Majority is a national small business organization that empowers America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. From our nine offices across the country, we engage our network of more than 85,000 small businesses and 1,500 business and community organizations to deliver resources to entrepreneurs and advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth. Our work is bolstered by extensive research and deep connections with the small business community that enable us to educate stakeholders about key issues impacting America's entrepreneurs, with a special focus on the smallest businesses and those facing systemic inequities.

Acting Secretary Su has been a leader in moving the Labor Department forward over the past three years. As part of that work, she has shown a dedication to supporting small businesses and their employees. As the daughter of immigrants who owned a small business, Acting Secretary Su understands the importance of the small business ecosystem to state and local economies. This understanding has been made apparent during her time at the Department of Labor. She has prioritized issues that benefit small businesses using an inclusive lens, particularly retirement, paid family leave and other benefits that small employers historically struggle to access. Through its Inclusive Capitalism program, the Department effectively and proactively engages with business stakeholders, and in particular, has demonstrated a responsiveness to the needs of small business.

What's more, she served as the de facto Chief Operating Officer for the agency of more than 16,000 federal employees and a budget of over \$14 billion, executing the mission of the Labor Department with respect to workforce and employment issues facing our country. It's clear that she is committed to supporting the goals of the agency, and we know that Su will not only reinforce but advance the Department's already critical work engaging with small businesses to promote quality jobs.

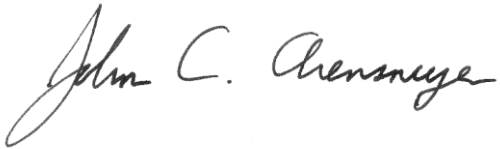
In addition to her current role as Acting Secretary, Su's experience showcases a distinguished career. She led California's Labor and Workforce Development Agency where we worked closely with her. In 2019, Su co-led the California Future of Work Commission alongside Governor Newsom and a small business owner, recognizing the crucial role businesses play. In this work, like Small Business Majority, Su recognized that benefits and job quality are also small business issues. Her tenure in California has been impactful because she believes in the need for strengthening the safety net to create high quality jobs through pragmatic policy solutions and programs like paid family and medical leave and CalSavers, a retirement savings program for private sector workers. We saw firsthand that she has a passion and commitment to ensuring that small businesses have access to a ready and thriving workforce.

As part of her commitment to a quality business workforce, Su supported Governor Newsom's Paid Family Leave Task Force, to which we were also appointed. The Task Force recommended creating a California Paid Family Leave Small Business Grant and we worked diligently alongside Secretary Su to raise awareness about the program with businesses and business organizations. Through these programs, small business owners in California are now able to offer a high level of benefits to employees, ensuring they are operating on an equal playing field with larger businesses.

To guarantee small businesses and their employees are truly supported and prioritized, we urge the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to support the nomination of Julie Su to serve as the next Secretary of Labor.

For any questions or additional information, please contact Government Affairs Director, Alexis D'Amato at adamato@smallbusinessmajority.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Arensmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John Arensmeyer
Founder & CEO
Small Business Majority

CC: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions