

MAJORITY MEMBERS:

TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN, *Chairman*

JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA
GLENN GROTHMAN, WISCONSIN
ELISE M. STEFANIK, NEW YORK
RICK W. ALLEN, GEORGIA
JAMES COMER, KENTUCKY
BURGESS OWENS, UTAH
LISA C. MCCLAIN, MICHIGAN
MARY E. MILLER, ILLINOIS
JULIA LETLOW, LOUISIANA
KEVIN KILEY, CALIFORNIA
ERIN HOUCHEIN, INDIANA
MICHAEL RULLI, OHIO
ROBERT F. ONDER, JR., MISSOURI
RYAN MACKENZIE, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER, WASHINGTON
MARK HARRIS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK B. MESSMER, INDIANA



COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2176 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MINORITY MEMBERS:

ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA,
Ranking Member

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, ARIZONA
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
FREDERICA S. WILSON, FLORIDA
SUZANNE BONAMICI, OREGON
MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA
ALMA S. ADAMS, NORTH CAROLINA
MARK DESAULNIER, CALIFORNIA
DONALD NORCROSS, NEW JERSEY
LUCY MCBATH, GEORGIA
JAHANA HAYES, CONNECTICUT
ILHAN OMAR, MINNESOTA
HALEY M. STEVENS, MICHIGAN
GREG CASAR, TEXAS
SUMMER L. LEE, PENNSYLVANIA
JOHN W. MANNION, NEW YORK

January 29, 2025

Mr. Vince Micone
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Secretary Micone:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) applauds President Trump's January 20, 2025, memorandum on returning federal employees to in-person work.¹ This important memorandum sets the stage for the Department of Labor (DOL) to fulfill a request that Committee Republicans have been making consistently for more than three years.² On behalf of the Committee, I request you take immediate action to implement the President's memorandum.

Nearly five years ago, DOL ceased its regular operations to protect its staff from the unknown threats of COVID-19. Since that time, the Biden-Harris administration has slow-walked returning federal agencies to regular operations, and federal employees' unions have attempted to impede all efforts to return to the office.³ Meanwhile, federal agencies are not fulfilling their responsibilities to the American people. For example, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, DOL's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) concluded the least amount of compliance actions, recovered the

¹ WHITE HOUSE, RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORK (Jan. 20, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/return-to-in-person-work/>.

² Letter from Ranking Member Virginia Foxx et al., to Martin J. Walsh, Sec'y of Lab. (Oct. 18, 2021), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/10-18-2021_letter_to_sec_walsh.pdf; Letter from Ranking Member Foxx & Ranking Member James Comer to Martin J. Walsh, Sec'y of Lab. (Dec. 21, 2021), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/12.21.2021_letter_to_sec_walsh.pdf; Letter from Chairwoman Foxx to Martin J. Walsh, Sec'y of Lab. (Jan. 12, 2023), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/01.12.23_follow_up_letter_dol.pdf; Letter from Chairwoman Foxx to Julie A. Su, Acting Sec'y of Lab. (Mar. 6, 2024), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/final_03.06.24_letter_to_dol.pdf; Subpoena from Chairwoman Foxx to Julie A. Su, Acting Sec'y of Lab. (May 6, 2024), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/5.6.24_return_to_work_dol_subpoena_compiled.pdf.

³ See, e.g., Nat'l Treasury Emp. Union v. Trump, No. 1:25-cv-00170 (D.D.C. filed Jan. 20, 2025) (complaint).

Mr. Vince Micone

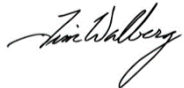
January 29, 2025

Page 2

fewest back wages, and had the fewest number of employees receiving back wages since FY 2013, which was the last year of recorded statistics on DOL's website.⁴

DOL must put the needs of all workers ahead of the interests of its own staff. In light of President Trump's memorandum, I am hopeful that it will do so. During your tenure as Acting Secretary of Labor and in fulfillment of your regular responsibilities as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Operations, I encourage you to make a priority of implementing the memorandum and returning DOL employees to in-person work.

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg
Chairman

⁴ WHD, IMPACT IN FY 2024—ALL ACTS, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/data/charts/all-acts>.