



March 16, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member, Committee on Health,
Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr,

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization committed to improving the lives of women and families by achieving equity for all women. Since our creation as the Women's Legal Defense Fund in 1971, we have fought for every significant federal advance for equal opportunity in the workplace, including the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 and the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA). **We write to express our strong support of Julie Su's nomination for Deputy Secretary of Labor and to urge the Committee to advance her nomination.**

The coronavirus pandemic has revealed the cracks in the foundation of our nation's labor market by exacerbating the inequalities that have long disadvantaged communities of color, women, immigrants, people with disabilities and other historically marginalized communities. These workers are in crisis, and the Department of Labor will be critical to ensuring that an economic recovery does not leave them behind. Indeed, the Department must make the economic security of these workers a central part of achieving a just and sustainable economic future.

Julie Su is incredibly qualified to serve as the Deputy Secretary of Labor and will be a strong partner to Marty Walsh – nominee for Secretary of Labor – in leading our country toward economic recovery. As Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Su leads an agency of over 11,000 employees to secure fair labor and workplace conditions for California workers and businesses. She oversees the state departments and boards that enforce labor laws, including minimum wage and occupational safety standards, provide paid family and medical leave and unemployment insurance benefits, fund workforce training and apprenticeship programs, combat wage theft, protect injured workers, and arbitrate public sector contract disputes. She has been a critical leader during the COVID crisis, addressing

delivery of unemployment insurance, ensuring workplace health and safety, and promoting sound economic policy to support small businesses and their workers.

Secretary Su's experience administering California's paid family and medical leave program will be especially important in dealing with the economic devastation that women, especially women of color, are facing in this crisis. Women are breadwinners whose wages are essential for supporting their families, but they are also shouldering increased caregiving responsibilities for seriously ill family members and children whose schools are closed. We have already begun to see the results of this conflict as record numbers of women have been forced to leave the workforce, and the long-term wage consequences will be felt for years. California's paid family and medical leave law is the first law in the nation designed to eliminate this impossible choice, and Secretary Su's time overseeing that program will give her a unique understanding of the solutions that women need.

Julie Su's commitment to fighting for the most marginalized workers is exactly what is needed to get working families through this crisis, and together with Marty Walsh, we are confident that she will work tirelessly to continue that fight. For this reason, **we urge you to swiftly advance her nomination and support her confirmation as the next Deputy Secretary of Labor.**

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Michelle McGrain, Director of Congressional Relations (mmcgrain@nationalpartnership.org) and Vasu Reddy, Senior Policy Counsel (vreddy@nationalpartnership.org) at the National Partnership for Women & Families.

Sincerely,



Erika Moritsugu
Vice President, Economic Justice
National Partnership for Women & Families