

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Lori M. Chavez-DeRemer Secretary of Labor U.S. Department of Labor 200 Constitution Ave NW Washington, DC. 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We write to urge you to preserve staffing levels and field offices at the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) to ensure disabled workers and veterans remain protected against discrimination.

Federal contract workers—who make up more than 20 percent of this country's workforce—rely on the experience and expertise of federal enforcers at OFCCP to effectively enforce anti-discrimination and equal employment requirements under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (VEVRAA) and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

But effective enforcement requires robust staffing levels in the agency's D.C. office and across its more than 50 field offices. OFCCP staff in field offices respond to workers' complaints and conduct proactive review for compliance to help ensure that taxpayer-funded federal contractors are not illegally discriminating against workers. OFCCP staff also provide compliance assistance to arm contractors with tools and resources to comply with the law and prevent discrimination before it happens. Without adequate OFCCP staff levels and field presence, federal contract workers will become more vulnerable to discrimination that could cost them equal pay, a promotion, or even a job.

Adequate staffing levels and field presence has proved critical to the Trump Administration in the past. For example, during the previous Trump Administration, OFCCP conducted Section 503 and VEVRAA focused compliance reviews that required on-site interviews. This work would not have been possible without a sufficient field

presence and staffing levels.

American workers deserve a level playing field that provides them the opportunity to succeed on their merits. We urge you to preserve the OFCCP's capacity to promote equal opportunity in employment for federal contract workers.

Sincerely,

Latifa Lyles, Women's Bureau Director Fem

(2012-2017)

A Better Balance

Access Ready Inc.

American Association of University

Women (AAUW)

American Civil Liberties Union

**Asset Building Strategies** 

Association of People Supporting

Employment First (APSE)

Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)

Better Life Lab at New America

Center for Economic and Policy

Research

Clearinghouse on Women's Issues

CMoWIT - Central Missouri Women in

Trades

Coalition on Human Needs

**Economic Policy Institute** 

**Equal Rights Advocates** 

**Equity Works** 

**Feminist Majority Foundation** 

**IUOE** 

**IUPAT Local 61** 

**Just Solutions** 

LCLAA

Legal Momentum

Main Street Alliance

Maine Women's Lobby

MANA, A National Latina Organization

MomsRising

National Center for Law and Economic

Justice

National Coalition on Black Civic

Participation/Black Women's

Roundtable

National Council of Jewish Women

National Disabled Legal Professionals

Association

National Employment Law Project

National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women and Families

National Taskforce on Tradeswomen's Issues

National Women's Law Center

National Writers Union

Operating Engineers Local 3

PowHer New York

REAL Women in Trucking, Inc.

Sandkamp Woodworks LLC

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund

Women Employed

Women in Non Traditional Employment Roles