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Christening Signals New Jobs for SIU CIVMARS

Union Shipyard General Dynamics NASSCO Builds USS John L. Canley

More jobs were secured for CIVMARS from the SIU Government Services Division June 25 when San Diego-based General Dynamics NASSCO christened the *USS John L. Canley*.

The vessel is the fourth ship for the U.S. Navy's reclassified Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) program. It is named for Medal of Honor recipient, retired Sgt. Maj. John L. Canley, who served in the Marine Corps for 28 years. In 2018, Canley was awarded the nation's highest honor 50 years after he rescued 20 fellow Marines under enemy fire in Vietnam during the Battle of Hue City in 1968. He passed away on May 11, 2022.

"New tonnage entering the American-flag fleet is always welcome news," said SIU Vice President Government Services Nicholas Celona. "I'm confident in the union members who will sail aboard the vessel, and am equally confident in the union members who built it."

Attending the christening were a host of VIPs and guests including the Honorable Meredith Berger, assistant secretary

of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment; Lt. Gen. Michael Langley, commander, U.S. Marine Forces Command; Vice Adm. Ross Myers, commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/10th Fleet; Sgt. Maj. David Wilson, command Sergeant Major, 1st Marine Division; and Thomas Kiss, director, Ship Management, Military Sealift Command. Captain Austin Hanbury, the *Canley's* civil service master; Jason Briggs, the *Canley's* chief engineer; the ship's crew; and sailors from the ships pre-commissioning unit also were in attendance as were five Medal of Honor recipients.

"Today, we celebrate and honor a true hero, Sgt. Maj. Canley. This ship represents his courage, selflessness, and strength," said Dave Carver, president of General Dynamics NASSCO, a union shipyard. "On behalf of the 35-hundred men and women of General Dynamics NASSCO, I am proud to present the *USS John L. Canley* for christening."

"What we christen today is not just a ship," Carver continued. "It is the embodiment of American unity and purpose; a beacon of freedom that will carry John Canley's legacy and the legacy of America to people all over the world."

The official christening moment occurred when the ship's sponsor, Canley's daughter Patricia Sargent, broke a bottle of champagne over the ship's bow with the words, "For the United States of America, I christen you the *USS John L. Canley*. May God bless this ship and all who sail on her."

ESBs are an afloat forward staging base-variant of the mobile landing



SIU Government Services Division members will be among the mariners sailing aboard the *John L. Canley*, pictured at its christening in San Diego.

platform, described as highly flexible platforms used across a broad range of military operations, acting as a mobile sea base to provide critical access infrastructure in support of deployment of forces and supplies. They are operated by the Military Sealift Command with a civilian and military crew.

The *Canley* will be delivered to the MSC fleet later this year, where it will undergo testing and qualifications in preparation for its support of a variety of maritime-based missions, including Special Operations Forces and Airborne Mine Counter Measures support operations, humanitarian and traditional military missions.

Once in service, the *John L. Canley* will primarily support aviation mine countermeasure and special operations force missions. In addition to a 52,000 square-foot flight deck, the 784-foot ship has a hangar with two aviation operating spots capable of handling MH-53E Sea Dragon-equivalent helicopters.

The ship will also have accommodations, work spaces, and ordnance storage for an embarked force, enhanced command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence to support embarked force mission planning and execution, and a reconfigurable mission deck area to store equipment including mine sleds and rigid inflatable boats.



Ship sponsor Patricia Sargent christens the vessel. (Photos by Sarah Burford, Military Sealift Command Pacific)

Norcross Stresses 'Buy American,' Value of Union Jobs

In a wide-ranging address June 10 at the Maritime Trades Department convention in Philadelphia, U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross (D-New Jersey) often returned to one key subject: good, union jobs.

A longtime electrician and onetime president of the South Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council before his election to Congress, Norcross also underscored his support for the U.S. maritime industry; emphasized the need for unity across the country; promoted workplace safety; and asked rank-and-file union members to recognize the pro-labor work of the Biden administration.

Norcross, who's still a union member, pointed to his own family as a prime example of how union apprenticeships can be gateways to rewarding careers. He said he has three grown children: a doctor, a lawyer, and an electrician. Only the latter has paid off his house, the congressman said.

"College isn't the only path" toward a good job, Norcross stated, and the various paths "are of equal value."

One way to ensure availability of good jobs in the trades is by instituting project labor agreements (PLA), he said. President Biden earlier this year issued an executive order mandating that federally funded construction projects worth at least \$35 million must be handled

by workers covered by PLAs. Such agreements create and maintain good-paying jobs, promote local hiring and boost safety standards.

"PLAs don't happen accidentally," said Norcross, who serves on the House Armed Services Committee. "They happen because the stage has been set over years. But we know how important they are. They mean good wages, pensions, safety. It only happens because we collectively work together to put people in positions in public office who understand where we come from."

He said that when traveling in an Armed Services Committee capacity, "when I meet the General Dynamics and Boeings and Lockheeds, I always ask to meet with the union president at each site. I want to hear what they have to say."

Turning to maritime, Norcross said the wind energy sector holds great promise for various sectors of the industry. He also expressed his ongoing support for the Jones Act, and said the pandemic opened the public's eyes regarding the importance of maritime.

"The supply chain does matter, doesn't it?" he asked. "Buy American means we have a supply chain that we're not going to (have) to worry about whether the Chinese are going to try to disrupt it. That's as real as you are

sitting here. It is unbelievable on a classified level what we see going on throughout our country. I think we've turned a corner; now, we need to make sure we do it. We start with Buy American and we make sure we have the skillsets back here at home."

Speaking about both the maritime industry specifically and the U.S. workforce generally, Norcross added, "You don't build an industry or lose it overnight.... People are beginning to understand you don't just snap your fingers" and have a well-trained, reliable workforce in place.

Looking towards the midterms later this year, Norcross reminded the audience that Biden "uses the word 'union' proudly. This is a big deal."

The congressman called for unity and said when it comes to union involvement in politics, "It's not about what team you're on. It's about what we do: helping bring home a paycheck so they can take care of their family. If we get stuck in these (partisan) corners, it's not a good outcome.... I've been on picket lines and nobody likes a fight more than me. But I was on the (Capitol) floor on January 6. That's not my country. This is not a blue or red issue; this is an American issue as fundamental as anything we do."

President's Column

Perspective, Civility

“What is wrong with him?!”

“How can she believe such a thing?!”

“Why in the world would they support that kind of candidate?!”



Michael Sacco

These sorts of sentiments are all too common nowadays, as many people retreat to their social-media silos and their television “news” equivalents.

With Election Day on the horizon, this is a perfect time to politely encourage our members, retirees, officials and staff to take a deep breath, focus specifically

on issues, and try to give people the benefit of the doubt. Such an approach will be good for one’s blood pressure, if nothing else.

Polarization in the U.S. has reached alarming levels, and that belief is backed up not only by data but also by daily anecdotal evidence in all of our lives. Our path to this regrettable destination partly took root in local news deserts – as legitimate journalism dried up, it was replaced by digital imposters cleverly masquerading as authentic outlets. There are many hundreds of such online entities across the country, most of them driven not by a desire to inform and provide balanced reporting, but rather by the political agendas of their big-money founders. The *New York Times* did a breathtaking, in-depth report on this situation a few years ago; there is no end in sight.

When you combine the dwindling state of the true news media with the proliferation of social media, it’s not pretty. Navigating the murky waters of social media can be challenging, particularly when it comes to politics. But one indisputable truth is that whatever you click on, you get more of. As one researcher put it, the concept of confirmation bias is nothing new. “But in social media, this bias is propagated simply by reading, liking, and sharing content that acts to support those convictions we already hold, while avoiding content that challenges our beliefs. Essentially, we begin to isolate ourselves from those opposing opinions until we’re surrounded with people who agree with us.”

Unlike traditional media outlets, social media at best has very loose rules governing the truthfulness of its content. Even when crackdowns occur, they’re often sporadic, tardy and not fully effective. The lack of accountability corresponds with a lack of accuracy.

Finally, we’d all do well to remember that in an age when so many social media, traditional media and other outlets make their living from online ad revenue, their respective content is usually designed to agitate – and to keep you clicking and tapping and watching. This doesn’t just apply to Newsmax or MSNBC or CNN. Pay attention to your local weather forecast and you’ll often hear words like “damaging, destructive” and “severe,” even if those are just slim possibilities for later in the week or in another region. Behind the algorithm are equations that have figured out how to keep us engaged.

Particularly with the November elections looming, I encourage everyone to pay attention to issues rather than personalities, and remember that the vast majority of people want what is best for our country, even if we sometimes have different ideas about how to achieve those goals. And, as always, be assured that the SIU will support candidates who support our industry and workers’ rights, regardless of political party.

SIU Directory

Michael Sacco, President

Augustin Tellez, Executive Vice President

David Heindel, Secretary-Treasurer

George Tricker, Vice President Contracts

**Nicholas Celona,
Vice President Government Services**

**Joe Vincenzo,
Asst. Vice President Government Services**

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Union-Affiliated School Hosts MSC Official



The SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education (PHC) recently hosted a high-ranking official from the U.S. Military Sealift Command. MSC Director of Total Force Management Gregg Pelowski (second from left) is pictured at the Piney Point, Maryland, facility with (from left) SIU VP Government Services Nicholas Celona, PHC VP Tom Orzechowski, PHC Director of Vocational Training and Education Priscilla Labanowski and PHC Instructor Wayne Johnson.

Posthumous Medal of Freedom Awarded to Trumka

President Joe Biden presented the nation’s highest civilian honor to the late AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka during a White House ceremony on July 7.

Trumka’s family received the Medal of Freedom, one of 17 awarded during the event.

Trumka served as the head of the national labor federation from 2009 until his unexpected death in August 2021. He had been the federation’s secretary-treasurer from 1995 until his election as the AFL-CIO president in 2009.

A native of Pennsylvania, Trumka came from a family of Mine Workers. He was elected president of that union in 1982, at 33 the youngest person to lead it. He served on the Maritime Trades Department Executive Board and was a regular presence at the department’s meetings and conventions.

“I can think of no greater tribute for our country to make than for President Biden to recognize Rich with the Medal of Freedom,” declared MTD/SIU President Michael Sacco, who was Trumka’s friend for decades. “He believed in this country and he believed in and fought for all of America’s workers and their families. I only wish he was with us to receive this personally.”

In announcing the presentation, the White House said, “Richard Trumka (d. 2021) was president of the 12.5-million-member AFL-CIO for more than a decade, president of the United Mine Workers, and secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO. Throughout his career, he was an outspoken advocate for social and economic justice.”



Rich Trumka, lifelong trade unionist and late president of the AFL-CIO, was a good friend of the SIU who advocated for the U.S. Merchant Marine.

Trumka joins former AFL-CIO Presidents Lane Kirkland and John Sweeney as a Medal of Freedom recipient.

How to Become an SIU Member

Joining the SIU is easy and an important step in protecting your workplace rights. The union’s website – www.seafarers.org – includes printable PDF versions of forms that mariners may use to request and authorize payroll deductions for labor organization dues. The forms are posted at:

<https://www.seafarers.org/news/labor-maritime-news/civmar-news/>

Forms are also available under “SIU Forms” in the ABOUT tab.

Contact Information

**Vice President Government Services
Nicholas Celona:**

Phone: (201) 434-6000

Email: ncelona@seafarers.org

**Asst. Vice President Government Services
Joe Vincenzo:**

Phone: (253) 272-7774

Email: jvincenzo@seafarers.org

**Government Services Fleet Representative
Sam Spain:**

Phone: (757) 622-1892

Email: sspain@seafarers.org

**Government Services Fleet Representative
Jesse Ruth:**

Phone: (619) 581-6008

Email: jruth@seafarers.org

MTD President Credits Union Members for Dedication, Perseverance During Pandemic

Despite facing unprecedented challenges caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, the labor movement not only answered the call but also made significant strides, said the leader of the Maritime Trades Department (MTD).

MTD President Michael Sacco, who also serves as SIU president, credited rank-and-file members and their unions with living up to their designation as part of the country’s “essential workforce.” Sacco expressed that sentiment in his opening remarks June 9 in Philadelphia, site of the MTD’s quadrennial convention.

“Some of you may remember that we were just a week or so away from our 2020 executive board meetings when the pandemic basically overwhelmed North America,” Sacco said. “It’s no exaggeration to say that life hasn’t been the same since then. But we survived, we adapted and we learned.

“Do you know what else we did?” he continued. “We delivered! Our members delivered. Our unions delivered. Obviously, there is nothing good about the COVID pandemic itself – but a lot of important things have happened since we had to cancel those meetings in 2020.”

Sacco, who was reelected to his position later during the convention, reminded the audience of a period when “you couldn’t find toilet paper or hand sanitizer on the store shelves” and when a runaway-flag ship became stuck in the Suez Canal in 2021.

“That’s when people outside our industry began to understand the importance of maritime,” he said. “That’s

when the term ‘supply chain’ started to become part of everyday news coverage.”

The growing awareness of the industry’s importance – starting with the significance of workers themselves – can only help bolster the U.S. Merchant Marine and American shipbuilding, Sacco stated.

“Additionally, people across the United States are realizing the value of their work – and they’re waking up to the fact that the best way to get what they deserve is by forming or joining a union,” he added. “Our approval ratings are at historic highs. Our publicity is almost nonstop. Workers have won union elections at Starbucks and Amazon, two of the nation’s most high-profile employers. Workers at some Apple stores are also mobilizing for union representation.”

He then welcomed delegations from International Longshoremen’s Association; the Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association; and the American Federation of Teachers. Those respective unions affiliated with the MTD since the department’s previous convention.

The MTD president also touched on his pandemic-era experiences with online connectivity, and in particular web meetings.

“It’s amazing how quickly it became part of everyday life,” he said. “What I’ve learned about technology is that it can be a double-edged sword. There is no doubt it can increase efficiency and save money. And there is no doubt that we also lose something if our only interactions



MTD/SIU President Michael Sacco

with each other are on a computer screen. That’s not an old-school sentiment. It’s a human sentiment.”

Like other speakers, Sacco also said it will be vital for workers and their unions “to make sure we’re using online connectivity – and technology in general – to enhance workplaces and to boost productivity while still preserving the relationships that are built over time, in person.... Again, I’m not looking to turn back the clock. But it’s up to us to harness the technology and put it to good use.”

New Congressional Report Highlights Economic Benefits of Unionization

Evidence shows that unionized workers receive higher pay and enjoy better benefits and more flexibility in their work schedules compared to unrepresented workers.

Those are among the findings of a new study by the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee (JEC) and the House Committee on Education and Labor. The report, released June 10, analyzes the economic benefits of unions for workers and families.

“Actions by Congress and the Biden administration, like enactment of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, have helped protect the right to organize and increased the number of union jobs,” the JEC said in a news release announcing the study. “A series of high-profile unionization drives – including at Amazon, Starbucks and Senate cafeteria workers – have put organized labor back in the national spotlight.”

Among the report’s key findings:

- Public approval of unions is at a 50-year high.
- There were 951 unionization elections conducted in 2021, 70% of which resulted in workers choosing union representation – a figure that does not include new unions that were voluntarily recognized by employers.
- Unionized workers earn 10.2% more than their non-union peers, while also raising wages and benefits

for all workers in their industry. Unionized workers also have better benefits and more say over their work schedule compared to workers who are not in a union.

■ Unionization increases wages by 17.3% for Black workers and 23.1% for Latino workers and helps narrow racial and gender economic disparities.

■ By setting a standard for working conditions, unions generate broader spillover benefits for all workers in industries with high rates of unionization – even if individual workers are not themselves in a union.

JEC Chairman Don Beyer (D-Virginia) stated, “Unions are the foundation of America’s middle class. For too long, the wealthy have captured an increasing share of the economic pie. As this report makes clear, unions help address economic inequality and ensure workers actually see the benefits when the economy grows.

“Even better, the positive effects of unions extend beyond just those workplaces that have formally organized,” he continued. “By boosting wages industry-wide, narrowing the gender and racial wage gaps and improving job quality, unions generate benefits that are economy wide.”

Beyer concluded, “Supporting the right to organize puts more money directly into workers’ pockets. That is

why I continue to firmly support legislation to strengthen labor protections, including the PRO Act, which passed the House last year and would further strengthen the right of workers to join a union.”

House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-Virginia) said, “Today’s report offers the latest evidence that labor unions are workers’ best tool to access higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces. In fact, the benefits of union membership extend even to nonunion members and the children of unionized workers.

“The need to protect workers’ right to organize is greater than ever,” he continued. “While wealthy individuals and the largest corporations continue to boost their profits, workers across the country have been forced to work in unsafe conditions for insufficient pay, because they lacked the ability to stand together and negotiate with their employer.... I am committed to addressing the decades of anti-worker attacks that have eroded workers’ collective bargaining rights. With the release of this report, I once again call on the Senate to pass the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, which would take historic steps to strengthen workers’ right to organize, rebuild our middle class, and improve the lives of workers and their families.”

Federation Declares: ‘Time is Now for Fixing America’s Broken Labor Laws’

Editor’s note: During the AFL-CIO convention earlier this year, delegates approved the following resolution, titled “The Time is Now for Fixing America’s Broken Labor Laws.”

All across America, working people are rediscovering the value of unions. From nurses to videogame developers to graduate teaching assistants, workers are organizing in record numbers.

Public support for unions is the highest it has been in 50 years. A majority of Americans supports unions, and the strongest support is among workers between the ages of 18 and 34.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has shed new light on the importance of workers having a voice at work. Belonging to a union can literally be a matter of life and death at countless workplaces in America where workers are exposed to the risk of sickness and death every day of the week.

The pandemic has also highlighted deep structural imbalances of power in our economy, as the wealth of billionaires has grown by 70% during the pandemic. Today, 716 billionaires have more wealth than the entire bottom half of the population – or 165 million people.

Although the right to form unions and engage in collective bargaining is a fundamental right guaranteed by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of 1935, the desire of millions of workers to join a union has been frustrated by unchecked corporate power and our broken and outdated labor laws. Even the right to strike, which should be a universal right, has become meaningless with the widespread use of permanent replacements. In the public sector, only half the states recognize workers’

freedom to engage in collective bargaining, and public employees’ right to bargain is under persistent attack from anti-worker politicians.

While polls show increasing numbers of Americans would join a union if they could, union density continues to slide as corporations and their allies in Congress work side by side to erect barriers to organizing and bargaining. From Amazon to Google to DoorDash, massive corporations are using their wealth and power to deny workers our fundamental rights. Corporate front groups are also using their money and influence at the state level to undermine collective bargaining rights for public employees.

Workers at these companies are not the only ones who suffer from corporate greed. Entire communities are held back as low wages undermine education budgets, health care and other basic public services. In 26 “right to work” states, more workers are stuck in low-wage jobs than in non-right to work states.

There is a growing consensus among economists that unions are the cornerstone of a robust and sustainable economy. Unions raise wages, reduce income inequality, promote workplace safety, negotiate retirement security and health benefits, and ensure fairness and dignity for millions of workers. Public sector unions support quality public services, and seek to maintain safe and supportive communities. Unions also strengthen our democracy and help bridge the racial divide.

When greedy corporations exploit our broken labor laws to keep workers down and frustrate union organizing, the result is that our economy is weaker, we are less globally competitive and income inequality continues to explode. The need to modernize and strengthen our labor laws has never been more compelling, and today

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Union, Military Sealift Command Discuss Possible Settlement

The SIU and the Military Sealift Command (MSC) at press time were discussing a possible settlement regarding pandemic-related notice of restrictions to liberty.

In Fall 2021, the union and the agency jointly chose an arbitrator from a panel provided by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). Following some immediate, unexpected delays, MSC representatives questioned both the scope of the case and whether some components should be subject to arbitration.

“The issue centers on MSC’s obligation to notify the unions of restrictions on liberty pursuant to CMPI 630 and an MOU signed by the parties in 1998 detailing

the requirement of notice,” explained SIU Government Services Division Assistant Vice President Joe Vincenzo. “The salient point here is that without proper notice, such restrictions can appear arbitrary and capricious and limit our ability to adequately represent our mariners.”

After the arbitrator’s selection, the unions were notified that the arbitrator was unable to hear arguments, which essentially reset the entire process. The SIU subsequently filed a brief in response to management’s preliminary statements in February 2022 and later gave testimony attesting to certain facts (an unusual pre-hearing requirement by the arbitrator).

With the hearing date itself set for August 24 and a split decision issued regarding the pre-hearing components that had been communicated earlier the same month, the parties agreed to postpone the hearing in the interest of exploring the possibility of a negotiated settlement. Discussions with management were ongoing at press time.

“As always, we thank our mariners who remain interested in seeing this matter through to the end and for their patience,” Vincenzo said. “We definitely will keep our members up to date on any new developments.”

Delegates Elect Shuler, Redmond to Lead AFL-CIO

AFL-CIO Convention delegates on June 12 elected Liz Shuler to serve as president of the federation of 57 unions and 12.5 million members. Shuler is the first woman to hold the office in the history of the labor federation. Delegates also elected Fred Redmond to serve as secretary-treasurer; he is the first African American to hold the office.

SIU President Michael Sacco, the longest-serving member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, oversaw the election and later was re-elected to the board. The SIU delegation to the convention also included Executive Vice President Augie Tellez, Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel and Vice Presidents Dean Corgey, George Tricker, Nicholas Celona, Joseph Soresi, Nick Marrone and Tom Orzechowski.

Other convention happenings included an in-person address by President Joe Biden, and passage of a pro-Jones Act resolution that was read by Heindel.

Immediately after her election, Shuler stated, “We are going to amplify the voices of working people – their hopes, struggles, and demands. This is more than a comeback story. This is a new story, yet to be told. A story we will write, on our terms, to be written by every one of us. A new era for all working people across this country. And generations from now, they’ll tell the story of how we succeeded, together, in solidarity.”

In her acceptance speech, Shuler delivered a call to action to organize, innovate and reshape the labor movement to meet the moment that the country is in as it continues to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Shuler also announced the AFL-CIO’s plan to activate one million workers throughout all 50 states to participate in the electoral process.

Redmond said, “We will keep fighting until every worker in this country has the chance to have a good, union job. Everybody in, nobody out. And we’re going to fix our labor laws and make that a reality. I know what the labor movement does. It brings the marginalized in from the margins. It brings respect to the disrespected. It lets people come together and collectively bargain for their own future.”

From 2009 until 2021, Shuler served as the AFL-CIO’s secretary-treasurer. She assumed the role of president following the passing of Richard Trumka in 2021.

A few days before the AFL-CIO gathering, Shuler spoke at the Maritime Trades Department convention, also in Philadelphia. She also expressed the federation’s unwavering support for the U.S. maritime industry.

With SIU Officials on the East Coast



Pictured above (from left) are SIU Government Services Division Representative Sam Spain, SIU Vice President Government Services Nicholas Celona and SIU Assistant Vice President Government Services Joe Vincenzo. They are shown at the AFL-CIO Maritime Trades Department convention, which took place in Philadelphia June 9-10. The SIU is an MTD affiliate; the MTD is a constitutionally mandated department of the federation. Guest speakers at the convention included AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler. In photo at right, Celona (left) and SIU Port Agent Ray Henderson review paperwork at the hiring hall in Jersey City, New Jersey.



AFL-CIO: Protect American Workers by Updating U.S. Labor Laws

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the AFL-CIO commits to keeping labor law reform at the top of our agenda until we succeed.

In 2019, the AFL-CIO began a campaign to build support for the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act. The PRO Act would modernize the NLRA to give working people a voice on the job so we can negotiate for higher wages, better benefits, a more secure retirement and a safer workplace. It would impose financial penalties on companies and individual corporate officers who violate the law. It also would override state right to work laws, prohibit companies from holding captive-audience meetings during organizing campaigns, ban the use of permanent replacements during strikes and remove the ban on secondary picketing. The PRO Act would ensure that all workers have the right to join a union by cracking

down on employers who misclassify their workers as independent contractors. Finally, it would establish a process for mediation and arbitration to help employers and unions reach a first contract.

Majorities in Congress agree that the NLRA needs to be updated and strengthened. The PRO Act passed the House of Representatives in 2019 and 2021 with bipartisan majorities. President Biden has called on Congress to send the PRO Act to his desk. It is now up to the Senate to debate and pass the PRO Act.

The AFL-CIO has also strongly advocated for the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act (PSFNA) so that all public employees have a right to bargain collectively. The PSFNA gives states the flexibility to write their own collective bargaining laws for public employees subject to minimum standards, including allowing public service workers to join together and have a voice on the job to

improve wages, working conditions and the delivery of public services in their communities.

We stand with public sector workers – nurses, teachers, EMS workers, custodians, corrections officers, child care providers and so many more – who have stood courageously on the front lines of the fight against the pandemic to keep their communities safe, healthy and strong while putting their lives on the line. By standing together, union members can demand workplace protections and safety standards and the ability to use paid leave, as well as stay connected to their jobs during these uncertain times. It is now time to pass the PSFNA.

We reaffirm our commitment, which we first made at the 2017 AFL-CIO Convention, that no candidate or elected official who fails to endorse and fight for these fundamental reforms should receive the support of working people.