



April 19, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair, Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member, Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF), I write to express our strong support for the confirmation of Ms. Julie Su to serve as the next U.S. Secretary of Labor.

AASF is a national non-profit and non-partisan organization that works to promote academic belonging, openness, freedom and equality for all. AASF accomplishes this through education, research, advocacy and empowering leaders within the Asian American scholar community. We aim to provide a crucial voice and create a bridge for the scientific, legal and advocacy community. AASF membership includes members from the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Science and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences members, in addition to past and current university presidents, provost, vice provosts, deans, associate deans and past and current department chairs. AASF has eleven Asian American partnering associations representing more than 7,000 Asian American scholars. AASF is currently an organizational member of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), a coalition of some of the most prominent and oldest national Asian Pacific American organizations across the country.

Ms. Su's confirmation would be historic for the Asian American community. If confirmed as the U.S. Secretary of Labor, she would become the only Asian American head of a federal department. Ms. Su has a long history of public service working to advance the civil rights of vulnerable communities, beginning her career as a litigator for worker's rights at Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California (AJSOCAL). During her time with the federal government, she worked tirelessly to revitalize federal-state-local partnerships to strengthen workforce development programs that resulted in good-paying jobs, remains committed to proactively engaging small business stakeholders, and has strong support from the business community who worked with her on workforce development and untangling port and supply chain problems during COVID.

We at the AASF commend Ms. Su's nomination and urge our Senators to move forward with her confirmation as the next U.S. Secretary of Labor.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gisela P. Kusakawa". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Gisela Perez Kusakawa, Esq.

Executive Director

Asian American Scholar Forum