



**9/8/21**

## **LEGISLATIVE & POLITICAL UPDATES**

- The [USDA announced yesterday the creation of a \\$700 million grant program for food and farm workers](#). The Farm and Food Workers Relief (FFWR) program will help meatpacking workers and farmworkers with COVID health and safety costs. Additionally, to recognize the essential role and costs borne by frontline grocery workers, \$20 million of this amount has been set aside for at least one pilot program to support grocery workers. UFCW international released the following [statement](#).
- According to recent [polling](#), across nine battleground states — Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin. [71 percent of voters also support making it easier for employees to form a union in their workplace](#). What's more, the majority of voters in these swing states support the PRO Act across party lines.
- The [House voted 220 to 2012 to pass a historic budget bill](#) that would invest heavily in healthcare, the environment and working families. The bill has a chance to provide essential benefits to workers such as paid leave, vital workplace protections, additional PPE funding and a pathway to citizenship for TPS workers.
- Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) has come out in [support behind legislation aimed to expedite federal rental aid to tenants and landlords](#). The bill would provide needed reforms to the nationwide emergency rental assistance program in the face of slow action by state and local governments in administering the program.
- The National Labor Relations Board's midyear election results are in and the findings are troubling for organized workers. There was [an increase in the number of decertification's](#) — that is, the number of worker groups voting themselves out of union representation — in the first half of 2021. The 2021 number however could be just a bounce back to pre-pandemic times, and not a sign of workers giving up on unions.