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IN THIS EDITION, YOU WILL FIND:

- Information on the many pro-worker bills introduced by Democrats in Congress.

National Legislative and Political News

- Several labor bills were introduced in the last few weeks including:
 - The [No Tax Breaks for Union Busting Act](#), which would deny business tax deductions for “union busting expenses”;
 - The [Striking and Locked Out Workers Healthcare Protection Act](#) to protect workers’ rights to access their health insurance during a lock-out or strike and
 - Rep. Mark Takano’s (D-CA) [32-hour Workweek Act](#), which would reduce the standard definition of a workweek under the FLSA from 40 hours to 32 hours.
- During a Senate Finance Committee hearing, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that [Department regulators have been looking into a solution](#) to provide banking services to the legal cannabis industry.
- The House Oversight and Accountability Committee [opened an investigation](#) into the business practices of pharmacy benefit managers, also known as PBMs. Congressional interest in PBMs is a rare instance of bi-partisanship work.
- The Biden Administration is [asking for \\$1.6 billion](#) to crack down on COVID-19 pandemic aid fraudsters; funding would assist in investigating and prosecuting pandemic fraud, developing new tools to prevent identity theft, and providing assistance to victims of pandemic fraud.
- The White House has formally submitted to the Senate the [nomination of Deputy Labor Secretary Julie Su](#) to be the next Secretary of Labor.
- USCIS has received [enough petitions to meet the cap on H-2B visas](#) for the second half of FY 2023; the agency also announced filing dates for petitions for supplemental H-2B visas for FY 2023 for U.S. employers looking for additional workers before September 15, 2023.
- The White House released the [agency by agency appendices](#) providing additional details on the President’s FY 2024 budget request. For the Department of Labor that includes: (1) \$341 million for the Wage & Hour Division (an \$80 million increase); (2) a \$100 million increase for OSHA; and (3) \$4.4 billion (a \$380 million increase) for the Employment and Training Administration.

- The Biden Administration is [considering reinstating the detention of migrant](#) families who cross into the United States illegally; this harmful policy is being considered as the White House prepares to end COVID-19 restrictions at the U.S. southern border in May.
 - On Equal Pay day, Sen. Murray (D-WA) and Rep. DeLauro (D-CT) reintroduced the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), which is intended to combat wage discrimination, close the wage gap by strengthening the Equal Pay Act of 1963, and ensuring women can challenge pay discriminations and hold employers accountable.
 - The U.S. Department of Justice ([DOJ is suing Rite Aid](#)); they are accusing the pharmacy chain of missing red flags as it illegally filled hundreds of thousands of prescriptions for controlled substances, including opioids.
 - DHS published notice in the Federal Register [extending and redesignating Somalia for Temporary Protected Status](#) for 18 months through September 17, 2024.
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