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IN THIS EDITION, YOU WILL FIND:

- News and analysis from last weeks State of the Union speech.
- News from Congress regarding the Food and Nutrition Delivery Safety Act.
- News and updates from around the nation.

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National Legislative and Political News

- Senators Fetterman and Brown introduced [the Food and Nutrition Delivery Safety Act](#) which would require Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) authorized retailers to provide fair wages, safe grocery delivery, and protect users' online data.
- President Biden didn't waste any time in his prime-time [State of the Union address](#) drawing a sharp contrast with his likely 2024 presidential rival, former President Donald Trump. Instead of a policy-heavy laundry list speech, the president leaned into politics, and at times, shouted and amped up Democrats with some fiery rhetoric.
- Check out ufcwvotes on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)! Like and follow. Pictured below, Local 99 President Jim McLaughlin, Secretary Treasurer Stan Chavira and rank and file members visit the White House to update the Administration regarding the difference pro-worker Biden policy has made in Arizona.
- The Coalition for Workforce Innovation, a lobbying organization whose members includes Uber and Lyft, filed [a legal challenge against the DOL independent contractor rule](#) which is meant to provide better pay for gig economy workers. Businesses are saying the independent contractor rule would decimate the gig economy.
- Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) [introduced the "Shrinkflation Prevention Act,"](#) which would direct the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to promulgate regulations to establish shrinkflation as an unfair or deceptive act of practice.
- The Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee [held a hearing entitled, "Taking a Serious Look at the Retirement Crisis in America: What Can We Do to Expand Defined Benefit Pension Plans for Workers?"](#)

- The [future of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act is uncertain](#) after a ruling by a federal judge in Texas which said the House of Representatives violated the Constitution when it passed the 2023 consolidated appropriations bill using proxy votes.
- The FDA [announced that grease-proofing materials containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) can no longer be sold](#) for use in food packaging in the U.S.
- The Senate HELP Committee [voted 11-10 to advance the nomination of Julie Su](#) to serve as Labor Secretary. There is no indication as to when her nomination may be considered on the Senate floor.
- Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) [said for the first time that she'd rather continue punting on the farm bill](#) than strike a deal with Republicans to limit climate funding and social safety net programs. Take action on the Farm bill here >>> <https://ufcwvotes.org/>
- The USDA [announced that it is extending a time-limited trial \(TLT\) for six swine establishments](#). Under the TLT, the establishments have been allowed to operate at an increased line speed while collecting and submitting data to be used to evaluate the impact of increased line speeds on workers. To obtain the data necessary to inform any future rulemaking, FSIS is extending the TLT for an additional 90 days to gather more data.
- President Biden made a visit to the southern border, the trip was on the heels of the failed “Bipartisan Border Agreement” which the White House released a fact sheet on prior to the president’s visit.
- The Department of Labor (DOL) rescinded a Trump-era rule that allowed businesses and self-employed people to use what are known as [association health plans \(AHPs\)](#). Arguments have been made that while AHPs can provide more affordable coverage for employees, they skirt around important ACA provisions like essential health benefits and other consumer protections.
- House Ways and Means Republicans marked up a bill, [H.R. 7513- “Protecting America’s Seniors’ Access to Care Act,”](#) that would rescind the Biden administration’s pending rule to enhance nursing home staffing standards. The bill was abruptly announced for markup and was a clear effort by the nursing home industry to be held accountable. The bill did pass out of committee mainly on party lines with Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL) voting in support as well.

News From Around the Nation

REGION 1

- A bipartisan coalition of legislators in [New York approved new congressional districts](#), after a years long fight over what the newly drawn map would look like. The approved maps include minor changes to the previous map, defying expectations that the new districts would heavily favor the Democratic Party. Governor Hochul is expected to sign the bill.
- New York City Mayor Eric Adams (D) has asked for [local lawmakers to modify its sanctuary city](#) law to allow migrants who commit violent crimes to be turned over to ICE for deportation, he has also asked for the federal government to provide work permits for the migrants.

Region 2

- The Virginia Legislature [approved legislation to establish retail marijuana sales in the state](#). Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA) has not yet indicated whether he will sign the bill.
- Following the adoption of new congressional maps in North Carolina that heavily favor Republican candidates, congressional primaries on Super Tuesday will give voters in the state (and the country) a clearer look at what the makeup of the U.S House of Representatives will look like in November. The [maps are currently being challenged on court](#) on the basis of racial gerrymandering.

Region 4

- The Michigan [Senate passed bipartisan legislation](#) to allow for more access to mental health and drug treatment courts.
- A piece of legislation in [Indiana that would loosen child labor laws passed the State Senate](#) 39-9 along party lines on March 5th. The Bill, which would “relax a variety of limits on the hours children aged 14-16 can work, including for gigs dangerous to life or limb” also exempts 16–17-year-olds in agricultural industries from a previous ban on minors working in “hazardous” jobs.

Region 5

- A Texas federal judge [struck down a new law](#) that authorized the arrest and removal of undocumented migrants. The state is expected to appeal the ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Lawmakers in Washington are working to pass, [The Keep Our Care Act](#), a bill that would allow for more oversight of health care mergers and acquisitions to ensure they don't cut services, drive up health care costs or reduce market competition.
- Oklahoma became the latest among a [growing number of states that have eliminated or are looking to eliminate sales taxes on groceries](#) amid rising food prices.

Region 6

- The [Minnesota House labor committee approved a bill](#) last week to bar businesses from misclassifying employees. In July 2023, Attorney General Keith Ellison formed a [task force](#) to study the issue of worker misclassification and its impacts on the state, explore policy and enforcement, and propose a set of enforcement and regulatory reform recommendations.
- The [Iowa Senate has passed a bill that would authorize law enforcement](#) in the state to arrest undocumented immigrants and empower Iowa judges to order deportations. Under the bill ([SF 2340](#)), it would become a state crime for a person to enter the state if they were already deported or refused entry into the U.S.

Region 7

- Colorado has become one of the first states with [a drug affordability board](#) to set a payment limit on two different prescription drugs. The board will set up a [months-long process](#) to find out what a maximum payment limit will be for the drugs in public and commercial health plans.
- A bill that would empower the [Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to pursue](#) and keep penalties against employers who violate the state's child labor laws has passed both chambers of the Oregon Legislature. [House Bill 4004](#) heads to Gov. Tina Kotek for her signature after passing the Senate in a 24-to-6 vote.

Region 8

- Independent U.S. Senator [Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona says she won't seek reelection](#) after her estrangement from the Democratic Party left her politically homeless and without a clear path to reelection. Sinema's decision avoids a three-way contest in one of the most closely watched 2024 Senate races.
- Democratic [Rep. Adam Schiff of Los Angeles](#), who led the first impeachment inquiry of former President Donald Trump, will face Republican Steve Garvey, a former Los Angeles Dodgers player, in a general election runoff to decide who will represent California in the U.S. Senate. The matchup in an overwhelmingly Democratic state, where a Republican hasn't won statewide since 2006, is a huge win for Schiff, who ran ads propping up Garvey in the hopes of avoiding a runoff between himself and another Democrat.

