

Senate Takes Meaningful Step on Workforce Development Reauthorization

This week, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions held a [legislative hearing](#) to discuss reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and policies to better improve America's workforce development system. Earlier this spring, the House of Representatives passed legislation to reauthorize WIOA and the bill now sits in the Senate.

During the committee hearing, Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) both stressed the urgent need to pass legislation to reauthorize WIOA and modernize federal workforce programs to better serve employers and workers. NDA [submitted comments](#) to the committee applauding them for holding the hearing and taking steps to prioritize workforce development policies in the coming weeks. NDA urged the committee to craft legislation that focuses on workforce training, skills development, and building stronger connections between employers and the workforce system.

NDA Urges DOL to Delay Implementation of OT Rule Following Lawsuits

On Wednesday, NDA and a coalition of business organizations [submitted comments](#) to the Department of Labor (DOL) urging them to delay implementation of the new overtime rule due to pending litigation in federal court. Several organizations have filed lawsuits challenging the legality of the rule and the coalition believes it is prudent to delay implementation until the judicial review process is completed. Postponing the effective date of a rulemaking while litigation is ongoing ensures that impacted businesses and the agency itself do not waste valuable resources by attempting to come into compliance or implement a rule that could be invalidated by a court.

The Department of Labor's new overtime rule would raise the minimum salary threshold for covered salaried employees to be exempt from overtime requirements from \$35,568 to \$58,656 per year. For highly compensated employees, the salary threshold will rise from \$107,432 to \$151,164. There will be automatic updates to thresholds every three years. The rule is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2024.

OSHA Sends Draft Heat Rule to White House for Final Review

This week, OSHA sent a draft proposed rule on Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings to the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for interagency review as required by statute. Review by OIRA is the final step before OSHA publishes the proposed rule in the Federal Register for public consumption. OSHA's new heat standard is expected to include several new regulations on employers to protect workers from heat injury and illness prevention in the workplace. Once the rule is published, NDA will be reviewing the proposal and submitting comments to OSHA on behalf of the demolition industry.

OSHA Grants Request to Extend Comment Period for Emergency Response Rule

This week, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) extended the comment period on its [proposed rule](#) to provide expanded safety and health protections for emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical service providers and technical search and rescue workers until July 22, 2024. Last month, NDA [submitted comments](#) to OSHA requesting that they extend the comment period to allow stakeholders more time to thoroughly review the rule, gather sufficient data from industry sources, and provide meaningful comments to OSHA.