

NDA Urges President Biden to Prioritize Workforce Policy

Today, NDA [sent a letter to President Biden](#) urging him to refocus his efforts on addressing labor shortages in the economy and prioritizing policies that will bolster the workforce development system. NDA highlighted its growing concern with recent regulatory actions taken by the Biden administration that will make it more difficult to attract and retain talent in the demolition industry. These include new proposals to overhaul overtime rules, the joint employer standard, independent contractor classification, noncompete agreements, and other burdensome workplace regulations.

In the letter, NDA outlined bipartisan policies and legislation that President Biden should pursue to alleviate workforce challenges faced by demolition contractors. NDA will continue to lobby both the Biden administration and Congress on policies to strengthen the workforce development system in the U.S.

Congress Averts Government Shutdown

Last Saturday, the House and Senate passed a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to fund the federal government at existing levels through Nov. 17, 2023. The CR included \$16 billion in disaster relief and extended funding for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the excise taxes supporting the Airport and Airway Trust Fund through December 31, 2023. Congress will now have less than 40 days to negotiate a long-term appropriations agreement that funds the government through next September.

House Removes Rep. Kevin McCarthy as Speaker

This week, the House of Representatives passed a “motion to vacate” resolution to formally remove Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) as Speaker of the House. Under House Republican rules agreed to last January, any member has the power to offer a motion to vacate the Speaker’s chair on the House floor. A motion to vacate was offered by Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) and every House Democrat joined 8 Republicans to remove McCarthy by a 218-208 vote.

Gaetz cited McCarthy’s support for the recently passed short-term continuing resolution to fund the government as justification for offering the motion to vacate. The House will now have to elect a new Speaker in the coming weeks before the chamber can move forward with any further votes or official business. The announced candidates for Speaker thus far are listed below:

- Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA), *Majority Leader*
- Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), *Chairman of the Judiciary Committee*
- Rep. Kevin Hern, (R-OK), *Chairman of the Republican Study Committee*

OSHA Releases New Resources on Heat Illness Prevention

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has released an [updated fact sheet](#) that addresses how to recognize and respond to heat illness symptoms, the risk factors for heat illness, and methods to mitigate heat hazards in both indoor and outdoor workplaces. The fact sheet also includes information on elements of a heat illness and injury prevention program (HIIPP). A HIIPP is an ongoing system that plans for and ensures workplace heat safety.

