

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6517

To amend the Act of March 4, 1913, to establish the Bureau of International Labor Affairs within the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2022

Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. WALBERG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Act of March 4, 1913, to establish the Bureau of International Labor Affairs within the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bureau of Inter-  
5 national Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 The Act of March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 736, chapter  
3 141; 29 U.S.C. 551 et seq.), is amended by adding at the  
4 end the following:

5 **“SEC. 12. BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUREAU OF INTER-  
7 NATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within  
9 the Department of Labor a Bureau of International  
10 Labor Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bu-  
11 reau’). The Bureau shall include offices to carry out  
12 functions related to—

13 “(A) trade and labor affairs;

14 “(B) child labor, forced labor, and human  
15 trafficking;

16 “(C) international relations and economic  
17 affairs; and

18 “(D) other functions and activities as des-  
19 ignated by the Secretary of Labor.

20 “(2) DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY.—The Sec-  
21 retary of Labor shall appoint a Deputy Undersecre-  
22 tary for International Affairs to head the Bureau.  
23 The Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs  
24 shall continue to carry out all duties assigned to the  
25 Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs as  
26 of the day before the date of enactment of the Bu-

reau of International Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2022 and other duties and functions, as appropriate, to fulfill the mission of the Bureau.

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Bureau on and after the date of enactment of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2022 shall include the responsibilities and functions of the Bureau on the day before the date of enactment of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2022, and include all of its personnel, assets, authorities, liabilities, and other resources, including representational funds, required to support such functions.

“(4) MISSION.—The mission of the Bureau shall be to—

“(A) promote labor rights and a fair global playing field for workers and businesses in the United States and around the world by strengthening international labor standards, supporting enforcement of trade commitments, empowering workers, and combating international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking;

“(B) assist trading partners, through technical assistance and capacity building, in im-

1 proving working conditions, combating child  
2 labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, rais-  
3 ing living standards, and protecting the ability  
4 of workers to exercise their internationally rec-  
5 ognized labor rights;

6 “(C) support negotiations and enforce-  
7 ment, and conduct monitoring and administra-  
8 tion, of labor commitments in trade agreements  
9 and preference programs;

10 “(D) hire and designate labor attachés to  
11 serve at United States diplomatic and consular  
12 posts to assess working conditions, advance  
13 worker rights, support trade enforcement, ad-  
14 dress the workplace exploitation of children and  
15 other vulnerable populations, and serve as au-  
16 thoritative experts on labor policies and prac-  
17 tices;

18 “(E) carry out representational activities,  
19 research, and other functions as designated by  
20 the Secretary of Labor; and

21 “(F) implement the duties and responsibil-  
22 ities assigned to the Department of Labor  
23 under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of  
24 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), the Trade and  
25 Development Act of 2000 (19 U.S.C. 3701 et

1           seq.), the United States-Mexico-Canada Agree-  
2           ment Implementation Act (Public Law 116–  
3           113), and other Acts, and executive orders, as  
4           appropriate.

5           “(b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
6 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor may utilize funds  
7 made available to the Bureau to administer international  
8 labor programs and provide bilateral and multilateral  
9 technical assistance by or through contracts, grants, coop-  
10 erative agreements, and other arrangements to carry out  
11 the mission and functions set forth in this section.

12          “(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall  
13 submit to Congress on an annual basis a report on the  
14 activities of the Bureau during the previous year, includ-  
15 ing—

16           “(1) activities to prevent forced and child labor;

17           “(2) support for trade agreement monitoring  
18 and enforcement activities;

19           “(3) the location and activities of labor  
20 attachés; and

21           “(4) the use of funds for contracts, grants, co-  
22 operative agreements and other funding arrange-  
23 ments.”.

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