



Fight for Freelancers Opposes Nomination of Julie Su for Labor Secretary

Fight for Freelancers USA warns against Su's support for policies that misclassify independent contractors as employees.

MARCH 29, 2023, WASHINGTON, D.C.: Fight For Freelancers USA, a nonpartisan, self-funded, ad hoc coalition of solopreneurs, small-business owners, freelancers and other independent contractors, opposes President Biden's nomination of Julie Su for secretary of labor. Su, the current deputy secretary of labor, was nominated to replace Marty Walsh, who is leaving the position to serve as executive director of the National Hockey League Players' Association.

"Julie Su has been instrumental in supporting regulations and laws that have decimated independent contracting for countless people," says Kim Kavin, a New Jersey freelance writer and co-founder of Fight For Freelancers. "She's a key figure in a movement seeking to implement policies that could destroy millions of livelihoods nationwide."

In her role overseeing California's Employment Development Department, Su supported Assembly Bill 5 (AB5), which became law in 2019. The law, which narrowed the definition of who is considered an independent contractor, negatively affected thousands of small-business owners, causing some to leave the state. The state Legislature ultimately carved out more than 100 exemptions to AB5; California voters, by a 59-41 margin, approved a ballot proposition to carve out even more; and a U.S. appeals court [ruled last week](#) that AB5 may violate the U.S. Constitution.

"Su supported the California ABC Test law that destroyed the careers of independent contractors all across that state, and used her position in state government to actively promote that law," says Karon Warren, a Georgia freelance writer and co-founder of Fight For Freelancers. "As many as 60 million Americans earn income as independent contractors. [Study](#)

[after study shows](#) that 70% to 85% are satisfied with their classification and wish to remain independent.”

Su has also been criticized for her oversight of California's unemployment insurance payment fraud scandal during the pandemic. “[Julie Su admitted](#) that California's labor department paid out \$11 billion in bogus claims, and another \$20 billion was suspicious and under review. Between this and playing a part in demolishing the livelihoods of people she should have been helping, Su should not have been nominated and should definitely not be confirmed,” says Debbie Abrams Kaplan, a New Jersey freelance writer and co-founder of Fight For Freelancers.

This summer, the U.S. Department of Labor is expected to issue new rulemaking to redefine legal self-employment under the Fair Labor Standards Act. “When the administration couldn't pass a national AB5 law through Congress, they set their sights on the USDOL,” says freelance writer Jen Singer, a co-founder of Fight For Freelancers. “I shudder to think what it'll be like with Julie Su at the helm.”

#FightForFreelancers #NoABCforUSA #WhatTheHellDOL
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