

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 2, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
US Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Chair Leahy:

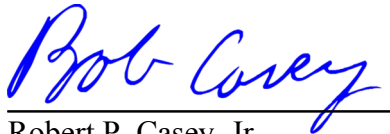
In April, a group of 40 Senators wrote Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Chair Patty Murray and Ranking Member Roy Blunt, requesting that the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) receive additional funding. Now, we write to escalate this request and express our grave concern over the ongoing funding crisis at the NLRB. We request that the final appropriations package include additional funding for the agency.

The funding situation at the NLRB is dire. Despite the NLRB's vital mission, the Board has received the same appropriation of \$274M since FY2014. In FY2010, the Board received \$283.4M in appropriations, meaning that the current funding level is essentially a 25 percent cut in inflation-adjusted dollars since FY2010. Due to inadequate funding, overall staffing levels have dropped by 39 percent over the past two decades and field staffing has been cut in half. Now, top leadership at the NLRB states that "the Agency has exhausted its ability to absorb cost increases through staff attrition and operational efficiencies." They add that the "agency has already implemented a hiring freeze and, without additional funding, will likely be forced to pursue furloughs." We must heed this stark warning.

Simply put, the status quo of NLRB funding is untenable. Continuing to underfund the NLRB not only puts workers' rights at risk, but also subjects employers to costly uncertainty. The NLRB is essential to supporting both employers and employees, and the ability of the Board to fulfill its statutory mission is in jeopardy without additional funding. Compounding the alarming situation, the NLRB has seen a 28 percent increase in the number of cases pending before the Board between FY2014 to FY2022. The vast majority of these cases are non-controversial, with the NLRB stating that 95 percent are settled or resolved by career staff in the field. Without additional funding, employers and employees face longer wait times to receive decisions and live longer in doubt even for the most rudimentary cases.

Our economy, our Nation's employers, and our Nation's workers need the NLRB to receive funding that allows it to fully implement its mission. We consider this funding a priority and urge you to increase funding for the NLRB in the end-of-year appropriations package. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator