



ATU 2026 Labor Policy Legislative Priorities

ISSUE #1: Protect Workers' Right to Organize

Workers across the country continue to face aggressive union-busting campaigns, retaliation, captive audience meetings, and delays in securing first contracts after organizing. Current labor law penalties are too weak to deter employers from violating workers' rights, leaving many workers unable to freely exercise their right to organize and collectively bargain.

ATU SUPPORTS: *The Richard L. Trumka Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act* (H.R. 20, Rep. Scott/ S. 852, Sen. Sanders), which would strengthen penalties for labor law violations, prohibit captive audience meetings, protect workers from retaliation, improve the union election process, and establish stronger pathways to achieving first contracts.

ISSUE #2: Workplace Safety and Worker Protections

Workers across industries continue to face dangerous working conditions, extreme heat exposure, workplace violence, fatigue, automation-related safety risks, and insufficient enforcement of workplace safety laws. Federal agencies responsible for worker protection remain underfunded and understaffed.

ATU SUPPORTS: Stronger OSHA protections for heat illness prevention and workplace violence; Increased funding for OSHA, the NLRB, and Department of Labor enforcement agencies; Legislation and regulations addressing rail safety, fatigue, asbestos exposure, and infectious disease protections; Policies ensuring that artificial intelligence and automation are implemented with worker input and strong labor protections.

ISSUE #3: Protect Good Union Jobs Through Federal Investments

Historic federal investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy, and technology must create high-quality union jobs with strong labor standards. Public investments should not subsidize low-road employers that suppress organizing or undermine labor standards.

ATU SUPPORTS: Strong labor standards tied to the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*, *CHIPS and Science Act*, and *Inflation Reduction Act*; Buy America and domestic content requirements; Policies requiring companies receiving federal assistance to provide workers a free and fair opportunity to organize unions; Expanded investment in apprenticeship and workforce development.

ISSUE #4: Economic Security for Working Families

Working families need strong public investments and labor standards that improve quality of life, reduce economic insecurity, and ensure access to essential services and benefits.

ATU SUPPORTS: Paid family and medical leave and paid sick leave for all workers; Affordable, high-quality childcare and elder care investments; Protection and expansion of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; Fair scheduling protections and stronger wage standards; Opposition to cuts to earned benefits and attacks on public sector workers.

ISSUE #5: Defending Collective Bargaining and Public Sector Workers

Public sector workers and federal employees continue to face attacks on collective bargaining rights, privatization efforts, and attempts to weaken civil service protections.

ATU SUPPORTS: *The Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act* (H.R. 2736, Rep. Norcross / S. 1352, Sen. Hirono), as well as other policy proposals that would grant full collective bargaining rights for federal workers, Transportation Security Administration employees, and Title 38 VA employees.