



# Label Letter

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Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO

## Organizing Momentum: Major Union Wins Across Industries in Recent Months



Photo credit: uaw.org

Over the past few months, working people have continued to organize, vote for representation, and secure first contracts that deliver real gains. These victories span auto manufacturing, health care, energy, media, and service-sector workplaces. They also reflect a growing trend: organizing is no longer isolated to traditional strongholds. Workers are winning in new regions, at high-profile employers, and in sectors that have historically been difficult to organize.

Below is a snapshot of some of the most significant recent wins.

### **AUTO MANUFACTURING: UAW SECURES FIRST CONTRACT AT VOLKSWAGEN CHATTANOOGA**

In a remarkable development for labor organizing in the Southern automotive industry, workers at the Volkswagen assembly plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., have successfully negotiated their first contract with the company. This milestone follows the workers' earlier decision to join the United Auto Workers (UAW), overcoming years of resistance against unionization in a traditionally anti-union region.

The achievement marks a historic moment for the UAW's new local chapter at the Chattanooga facility, as this is their inaugural contract. The contract nego-

tiation is a significant breakthrough in the Southern United States, where organized labor efforts have often faced strong opposition.

This success serves not only as a pivotal victory for the Chattanooga plant but also as a galvanizing force for other nonunion auto plants across the South. It offers a tangible example of what concerted organizing efforts can accomplish—even in challenging environments.

The campaign at Volkswagen was spearheaded by dedicated production and maintenance workers aiming for higher wages, increased job security, and a say in critical workplace issues like scheduling and safety. The successful agreement is expected to ripple across the automotive industry, inspiring similar efforts at other major facilities.

The UAW's accomplishment at Volkswagen Chattanooga is poised to energize ongoing and future organizing efforts, potentially transforming the landscape of auto manufacturing in regions traditionally known for high resistance to unionization.

### **ENERGY SECTOR: USW NATIONAL PATTERN AGREEMENT ACROSS REFINERIES**

The United Steelworkers (USW) secured a national pattern agreement covering

roughly 30,000 refinery and petrochemical workers across 26 companies, including facilities operated by Marathon Petroleum, ExxonMobil, Chevron, and Phillips 66.

This agreement impacts dozens of USW locals nationwide, including units at major refinery sites in Texas, Louisiana, California, and the Midwest. The contract includes strong wage increases over four years, a signing bonus, and improvements in safety and staffing language.

While not a traditional organizing drive, pattern bargaining at this scale reinforces union strength and raises standards across an entire industry. For workers in non-union energy facilities, these agreements continue to demonstrate the power of coordinated representation.

### **HEALTH CARE: SEIU ORGANIZING CONTINUES TO EXPAND**

Health care remains one of the most active organizing sectors in the country. In recent months, hospital workers in multiple states have voted to join Service Employees International Union (SEIU) affiliates, including large units organized through SEIU-UHW in California and other regional SEIU locals nationwide.

These campaigns have included service

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and technical workers, nursing support staff, and patient care employees seeking safer staffing levels, fair pay, and protections against burnout.

Each new unit adds to an already strong base of organized health care workers and strengthens the sector’s collective ability to push for system-wide improvements.

### **MEDIA AND NEWSROOMS: NEWSGUILD-CWA CONTINUES GROWTH**

Journalists and media workers are continuing to organize under The NewsGuild-CWA, including recent wins at regional newspapers and digital media outlets. One notable example includes newsroom employees at The Columbus Dispatch, where workers voted to join the Guild to gain a voice in job security, pay transparency, and workplace standards.

NewsGuild units are typically organized as local chapters within the Communications Workers of America structure, and the continued expansion across newsrooms reflects growing concern about layoffs, consolidation, and declining job stability in the industry.

### **AEROSPACE AND MANUFACTURING: IAM AND IBEW UNITS SECURE GAINS**

Across manufacturing, aerospace, and defense supply chains, workers represented by unions such as the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) have secured new agreements and organized new bargaining units at smaller facilities and suppliers.

In several recent IAM contract settlements at manufacturing sites, locals reported significant wage increases, expanded paid leave, and stronger language on subcontracting protections. While some of these campaigns involved smaller units, they are strategically important in strengthening regional union density.

### **SERVICE SECTOR: STARBUCKS WORKERS UNITED CONTINUES EXPANSION**

The organizing wave at Starbucks continues to grow under Starbucks Workers United, affiliated with Workers United (SEIU). More than 600 stores nationwide have voted to unionize, and new elections continue to be filed regularly.

Each store forms its own bargaining unit, often supported by regional Workers United locals. Though first contracts remain a challenge, the scale of organizing in retail and food service has permanently shifted expectations in a sector long viewed as difficult to organize.

These campaigns are being led by younger workers who are building leadership skills and reshaping the public conversation around unions.

### **WHY THESE WINS MATTER**

These victories—whether in massive auto plants or smaller newsrooms—share a common thread. They show that organizing is spreading across industries and regions:

- The UAW breaking through in Southern auto manufacturing
- The USW maintaining industry-wide leverage across refineries
- SEIU expanding health care representation
- NewsGuild-CWA organizing media workers

- IAM, IBEW, and other industrial unions strengthening manufacturing units
- Workers United building power in the service sector

Each campaign builds confidence. Each new local strengthens the broader labor movement. And every contract win raises standards not just for union members, but for workers at competing employers.

What stands out most about the past few months is the diversity of organizing. These wins aren’t limited to one industry or region. They’re happening in the South, on the coasts, in cities, and in smaller communities.

They also reflect a shift in worker expectations. People are organizing not just for higher wages, but for respect, safety, stability, and a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

Momentum builds one workplace at a time. That’s how real growth happens—steady, visible, and driven by workers themselves.

## Alex Pretti Lived as a Helper, He Died as One Too



Alex Pretti was shot and killed by federal immigration agents while trying to help people in his community.

On January 24, 2026, the 37-year-old VA intensive care nurse and union member was killed during an immigration enforcement operation in Minneapolis after stepping in as chaos unfolded around his neighbors. Accounts from witnesses and reporting in the days that followed made clear he was trying to assist people caught up in the confrontation when agents fired, ending the life of a man whose profession and character were defined by helping others.

His killing sent shockwaves through the labor movement and drew sharp condemnation from national union leadership.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said in a statement, “The AFL-CIO mourns the senseless killing of another Minneapolis resident by federal agents. Alex Jeffrey Pretti was a VA intensive care unit nurse and a member of AFGC Local 3669—a brother in our union family.” She added that America’s unions were joining calls for ICE to leave Minnesota “before anyone else is hurt or killed.”

Pretti wasn’t just a nurse — he was a union member who spent his career caring for veterans in their most critical moments at the VA. Colleagues remember him as steady, compassionate, and always willing to step in when someone needed help. That instinct did not turn off when he left the hospital. It carried into his neighborhood and his community.

Union leaders and coworkers have been blunt in their anger, arguing that his death was not an accident but the result of aggressive enforcement tactics that put communities directly in harm’s way. To them, the fact that a healthcare worker — someone trained and committed to saving lives — was killed while trying to help others stands as a devastating indictment of the conditions that led to that moment.

Alex Pretti lived as a helper. He died as one too. And for many in the labor movement, his killing has become a symbol of the human cost when fear and force replace humanity and restraint.



## Why Repealing Right-to-Work Would Strengthen Virginia's Workers and Communities

With Democrats now holding the governorship and majorities in the General Assembly, Virginia may be on the verge of one of the most consequential labor policy changes in decades: repealing the state's right-to-work law. For working people across the Commonwealth, such a move would not be about politics. It would be about restoring balance in the workplace, raising wages, and ensuring that workers finally have a meaningful voice in decisions that shape their livelihoods.

Right-to-work laws allow workers to receive the benefits of union representation without contributing to the costs of negotiating and enforcing those contracts. Over time, that structure weakens unions' ability to advocate effectively, reducing their leverage to secure higher pay, safer workplaces, and better benefits. Repealing the law would not force anyone to join a union. It would simply allow workers who choose to organize to do so on a fair footing.

Labor leaders in Virginia have long argued that the current system suppresses wages and diminishes worker power. Doris Crouse-Mays, president of the Virginia AFL-CIO, has been direct about what repeal could mean: "Virginia must repeal its right-to-work law... [it would] give more workers a voice on the job and raise wages."

That simple idea—voice and wages—captures why the issue matters to so many

families. When workers can stand together and negotiate collectively, they are better positioned to secure pay that keeps up with rising costs and to push for benefits that support long-term stability. Those gains don't stay confined to union members. Higher standards in unionized workplaces tend to lift pay and benefits across entire industries as employers compete to recruit and retain workers.

The economic impact would reach far beyond individual paychecks. Stronger wages mean more spending in local communities, more stable tax revenue for public services, and greater financial security for families. When workers can support their households, it strengthens small businesses, neighborhoods, and regional economies across the Commonwealth.

Legislators backing repeal have framed the issue as one of balance. State Sen. Jennifer Carroll Foy, who introduced legislation to roll back the law, has pointed to growing inequality and the need to restore fairness in the workplace. "I think we have a pro-union majority in the House and the Senate," she said, adding that one way to restore balance is to give workers the option to organize and advocate for themselves as executives' pay continues to outpace that of employees.

That framing resonates with many Virginians who feel their voices have been left out of workplace decisions. For

decades, right-to-work has made organizing more difficult, weakening the ability of workers to negotiate over pay, safety, scheduling, and job security. Repeal would shift that dynamic by allowing workers who benefit from a contract to help sustain the representation that makes those gains possible.

Just as important, stronger worker representation often leads to safer workplaces and more stable jobs. When employees can speak up without fear, problems get addressed earlier. Turnover drops. Training improves. Businesses benefit from a more experienced and committed workforce. That's not just good for labor—it's good for productivity and long-term growth.

The debate over right-to-work will continue, as it always has. But at its core, the question is straightforward: should workers have a stronger collective voice in shaping the conditions of their employment? Repeal would move Virginia closer to a system where working people have real influence over wages, benefits, and safety, and where prosperity is more broadly shared.

For many Virginians, that would mark a turning point. It would mean that the people who build the roads, maintain the ships, care for patients, teach students, and keep businesses running are no longer on the sidelines. It would mean they finally have a seat at the table.

# New Bicameral Congressional Coalition Forms to Defend Federal Workers' Rights

In a significant development for the federal workforce, lawmakers in both chambers of Congress have launched a new bicameral effort — the Federal Workforce Caucus — aimed at protecting federal employees and restoring key workplace rights that have come under pressure in recent years. The coalition brings together senators, representatives, and labor leaders who say the goal is simple: rebuild stability, dignity, and fairness for the public servants who keep the government running.

Formed in early February 2026, the caucus is led by U.S. Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland alongside Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, Representatives Steny Hoyer, and James Walkinshaw and Suhas Subramanyam (VA). More than two dozen lawmakers have joined the effort, signaling growing momentum in Congress to more forcefully advocate for federal employees and the civil service system.

## A RESPONSE TO A YEAR OF UPHEAVAL

The creation of the caucus comes after sweeping changes to the federal workforce, including policy shifts affecting civil service protections, hiring practices, and collective bargaining. Lawmakers say those changes have damaged morale, disrupted agencies, and made federal careers less secure.

“We know that there’s a lot of damage that has been done,” said Rep. Walkinshaw. “But there is an opportunity moving forward to rebuild from that damage an even better federal government and an even stronger federal workforce.”

The coalition is designed to provide a coordinated platform in Congress to push back against attacks on civil service protections and advocate for legislation that restores workers’ rights. In the near term, members plan to focus on collective bargaining protections, merit-based hiring, and preventing political interference in federal agencies.

Sen. Van Hollen underscored the stakes when announcing the effort, noting that federal employees deliver essential services across the country and should be able to do their jobs without fear of politi-



*Rep. James Walkinshaw (VA) looks on as Senator Chris Van Hollen (MD) discusses how the new Congressional Coalition intends to stand united in support of federal workers to protect the integrity of merit-based service.*

cal retaliation. He said the caucus is intended to “stand united” in support of federal workers and protect the integrity of a merit-based civil service.

## A PARTNERSHIP WITH LABOR

Federal unions and worker advocates were closely involved in the coalition’s launch and are expected to play an active role in shaping its priorities. Leaders from national labor organizations say the caucus represents an important turning point after years of uncertainty for federal employees.

Doreen Greenwald, national president of the National Treasury Employees Union, welcomed the formation of the group, pointing to what she described as “mass firings without cause” and attacks on union rights over the past year. She said the caucus would help strengthen the civil service and ensure employees are treated with dignity and respect.

Other union partners echoed that sentiment, arguing that a stable federal workforce is essential not only for employees themselves but also for the public who depend on government services. Labor leaders emphasized that restoring collective bargaining rights and job protections will be central to their work with the coalition.

## RESTORING RIGHTS AND REBUILDING STABILITY

Supporters of the caucus see it as a key vehicle for advancing legislation that protects federal workers’ rights, improves retention and recruitment, and reestablishes workplace stability. Members say they intend to pursue oversight, legislative fixes, and policy reforms that strengthen the workforce and protect employees from political pressure.

Lawmakers involved in the effort have framed the coalition as both a defensive and forward-looking initiative. In addition to pushing to restore protections, they plan to focus on modernizing the federal workplace, ensuring fair pay and working conditions, and rebuilding morale across agencies.

For federal workers and their unions, the creation of the Federal Workforce Caucus marks a shift toward a more coordinated push in Congress to defend public service jobs. With lawmakers, labor leaders, and advocates working together, supporters believe the coalition could become a central force in restoring workers’ rights and reinforcing the value of a strong, professional civil service.

# Surveillance Pricing Is Costing Working Families Thousands — and It Needs to Be Stopped

Most people know prices go up and down. Gas gets more expensive in the summer. Groceries rise with inflation. Airline tickets spike around the holidays. That's not new. What is new — and deeply troubling — is the rapid growth of “surveillance pricing,” a practice that allows companies to quietly charge different people different prices based on the personal data collected about them.

This isn't traditional supply and demand. It's a system built to figure out how much you are willing to pay — and then charge you exactly that.

For working families already stretched thin, the result can mean paying hundreds or even thousands more each year for the same products and services as someone else.

## WHAT SURVEILLANCE PRICING IS — AND HOW IT WORKS

Surveillance pricing uses data harvested from your online behavior to predict what you're willing to pay. Companies collect and analyze information from your browsing history, location, income level, device type, purchase habits, and even how long you pause over a product. Algorithms then use that data to adjust prices in real time.

Two people can search for the same flight, the same insurance policy, or the same household appliance — and see two completely different prices.

This isn't about offering discounts. It's about maximizing what companies can extract from each individual customer.

“Surveillance pricing turns personal data into a tool for extraction,” said Richard Kline, President of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO. “Instead of competing to lower prices, companies are competing to figure out how much pain a household can tolerate — and charging right up to that line.”

If the system thinks you're a higher earner, live in a certain ZIP code, use an expensive phone, or frequently buy without comparing prices, it may show you higher prices because it assumes you can absorb the cost.

Working families often get hit from both sides. If you live in a lower-income area, you may be shown higher rates for credit, insurance, or rental housing because algorithms label you as “higher risk.” If you show signs of financial stability, you may be charged more simply because the system thinks you can pay it.

Either way, the house wins.

## A HIDDEN COST THAT ADDS UP FAST

Because surveillance pricing happens quietly, most people never realize it's affecting them. But the impact is real and significant.

Consider how often families make purchases online: groceries, clothing, school supplies, airline tickets, streaming services, car insurance, prescription refills. If a family is consistently nudged toward higher prices — even by a small percentage — the extra cost can quickly add up to thousands of dollars a year.

Unlike traditional price discrimination, this new model is constant and automated. It doesn't require a salesperson making a judgment call. It runs 24 hours a day, across entire industries, making millions of micro-adjustments designed to increase profit at the consumer's expense.

And there's little transparency. Companies are rarely required to disclose when prices are personalized, how they set them, or what data they used to reach that number.

## WHY IT'S ESPECIALLY HARMFUL TO WORKERS

Working people already operate within tight financial margins. Wages haven't kept pace with housing, health care, and education costs, and many households budget down to the dollar. Surveillance pricing exploits that reality.

“Working people are already budgeting every dollar,” Kline added. “When corporations use private data to quietly charge them more, it's not innovation — it's a pay cut they never agreed to.”

It penalizes urgency. If a parent needs a last-minute flight to help a sick relative, the system may detect the urgency and raise the price. If someone shops late at

night after work and repeatedly searches for the same item, the algorithm may interpret that behavior as desperation — and increase the cost.

It also deepens inequality. Wealthier consumers often have more time and tools to comparison shop, use privacy protections, and navigate around price manipulation. Working families juggling jobs, childcare, and long commutes don't always have that luxury. The system takes advantage of that gap.

Over time, it creates a marketplace where those with the least flexibility pay the most.

## A DANGEROUS, PREDATORY SHIFT

At its core, surveillance pricing flips the basic idea of fair markets on its head. Instead of setting one price based on costs and competition, companies are setting thousands of prices based on how vulnerable each customer appears.

That is a dangerous precedent.

It means corporations are incentivized to know more and more about people's personal lives — not to serve them better, but to charge them more effectively. The more data they collect, the more precise their pricing becomes. And the less power consumers have to push back.

Without strong oversight, there is little to stop this practice from expanding into essential services: health care, utilities, rent, education, and insurance. When pricing is driven by hidden profiles and predictive behavior models, fairness disappears.

## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NEXT

Surveillance pricing thrives in the shadows. The first step to stopping it is transparency.

Consumers deserve to know when prices are being personalized and what factors are being used. Lawmakers should be examining whether this practice violates consumer protection standards, especially when it disproportionately impacts working families. Regulators need to treat personal data not just as a privacy issue, but as an economic fairness issue.



# UNION-MADE PET SUPPLIES

Treat your pets right and support working families. This list of pet products are made by members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), United Auto Workers (UAW), ILWU, and the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers (BCTGM).

## UNION PLUS PET INSURANCE:

Protect your four-legged friend with a Union Plus Pet Insurance plan, powered by Pets Best. As a union member, you get up to 12% off monthly premiums. Pets Best offers flexible coverage options, with no annual or lifetime limits. Their cost-conscious Accident Only plan is only \$6 a month for cats and \$9/month for dogs.

Visit the Union Plus website for details: <https://bit.ly/3ZPdKSF>



## CAT FOOD



- » 9 Lives
- » Fancy Feast
- » Purina Cat Chow
- » Beyond Natural Cat Food
- » Purina Pro Plan Cat Food
- » Purina One
- » Deli•Cat
- » Friskies
- » Purina Dental Life
- » Kit & Kaboodle
- » Petivity
- » Pro Plan Veterinary Diets
- » Whisker Lickin's

## DOG FOOD AND TREATS



- » Alpo
- » Anchor
- » Bella
- » Purina Busy
- » Purina Dental Life
- » Moist & Meaty

- » Purina Prime
- » Purina Veterinary Diets
- » The Pioneer Woman Dog Treats
- » Trekker's Dog Chews
- » Beggin' Strips
- » Chew-eez
- » Nature's Recipe
- » Purina Beneful
- » Purina Dog Chow
- » Purina Pro Plan
- » Purina Puppy Chow
- » Purina One
- » Skippy
- » Snausages
- » Milk-Bone Dog Biscuits (Del Monte Foods)
- » Nestle Purina PetCare Company

## ANIMAL FEED

- » Purina Animal Feeds
- » Agribrands Purina Canada Inc.
- » Ritchie Industries — heated and fresh watering tanks for animals

## FENCING

- » Dare Products Equine Fencing & Electric Fencing

## CAT & DOG LITTER



- » Fresh Step
- » Tidy Cats
- » Tidy Cats Breeze
- » Yesterday's News
- » Second Nature Dog Litter

## VETERINARIANS

- » Columbia River Veterinary Specialists (owned by PetVet Care Centers), Vancouver, Washington

# AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS

## MAR-APR 2026



### RESTAURANTS

#### SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

#### WASHINGTON, DC:

- » **STARR restaurants:** The Occidental, Osteria Mozza and Le Diplomate
- » **Knightsbridge Restaurant Group:** Modena, Bombay Club and Rasika

### HOTELS

#### SUBMITTED BY UNITE HERE!

Please support the workers in these hotels by continuing to boycott the following properties:

#### ALASKA:

- » Hilton Anchorage
- » Marriott Anchorage Downtown
- » Homewood Suites by Hilton Anchorage
- » Hampton Inn Anchorage
- » Hilton Garden Inn

#### CALIFORNIA:

- » Hilton Long Beach
- » Hyatt Centric Fisherman's Wharf
- » La Meridien
- » Hilton Los Angeles Airport
- » Terranea Resort
- » Hyatt Regency Santa Clara

- » Four Seasons Beverly Hills
- » Hotel Bel Air
- » Langham Huntington

### FOOD

#### SUBMITTED BY

#### **Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union (BCTGM)**

- » Mondelez International Snack Foods (those made in Mexico)

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### SUBMITTED BY

#### **Communications Workers of America**

- » T-Mobile

### LEGAL

#### SUBMITTED BY

#### **American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees**

- » Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea
- » McDonald, Lamond, Canzoneri and Hickernell

### OTHER

#### **SUBMITTED BY Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)**

- » Reynolds American, Inc., Vuse e-cigarettes

When some labor disputes

with businesses cannot

be resolved, the AFL-CIO

supports its affiliates by

endorsing their boycotts.

A boycott is an act of

solidarity by voluntarily

abstaining from the

purchase or use of a

product or service.

## POLICY GUIDELINE FOR ENDORSEMENT OF AFFILIATES' BOYCOTTS

The AFL-CIO Executive Council has developed policy guidelines that regulate how the federation endorses boycotts undertaken by its affiliates. To get AFL-CIO sanction, boycotts should be directed at primary employers.

### THE GUIDELINES INCLUDE THESE PROVISIONS:

All requests to the national AFL-CIO for endorsement must be made by a national or international union.

Any affiliated union with a contract in force with the same primary employer will be contacted by the AFL-CIO to determine whether there is an objection to the federation's endorsement.

Affiliates will be asked to provide the AFL-CIO with background information on the dispute in a confidential information survey. Prior to endorsement of the boycott, the executive officers, or their designees, will meet with the national union's officers, or their designees, to discuss the union's strategic plan and timetable for the boycott, or other appropriate tactics, and to discuss the federation's role.

The national or international union initiating the boycott is primarily responsible for all boycott activities; the AFL-CIO will provide supplemental support.

Boycotts will be carried on the AFL-CIO national boycott list for a period of one year, and the endorsement will expire automatically at the end of that time. National and international unions may request one-year extensions of the listings for actions where an organizing or bargaining campaign is actively in place.

(These guidelines were adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council in April 2011.)

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**PERIODICALS  
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WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**TIME VALUE**

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UL&STD thanks Ullico for supporting our mission.

# EndNotes

By Rich Kline, *President, UL&STD*



This issue of the *Label Letter* centers on the lives, work, and communities that define the labor movement. We remember Alex Pretti — a Veterans Administration intensive care nurse, AFGE member, and neighbor — who was killed while trying to help others during an immigration enforcement operation in Minneapolis. His life reflected the values union members carry beyond the workplace: service, solidarity, and a willingness to stand up for people in need.

Across this issue, we see the same spirit reflected in workplaces nationwide. From auto plants and refineries to hospitals, newsrooms, and retail stores, workers are organizing for safer conditions, fair pay, and a voice in decisions that affect their lives. These victories are not isolated; they point to a broader shift as working people seek stability, respect, and the ability to shape their futures together.

But union strength does not stop at the bargaining table. The articles in these pages show how collective action strengthens communities as well as workplaces. Efforts to restore workers' rights in the federal workforce, campaigns to repeal right-to-work laws, and the fight against predatory practices like surveillance pricing all reflect a common truth: when workers stand together,

they help build fairer economies and more stable communities.

Alex Pretti's story reminds us that unionism is rooted in something deeper than contracts or wages. It is about people who carry their sense of responsibility into their neighborhoods, their civic life, and their daily interactions. Unions create networks of engagement — members who serve on school boards, coach youth teams, volunteer, vote, and advocate for the common good.

Today's organizing wave is fueled by real pressures: rising costs, unpredictable schedules, safety concerns, and the desire for dignity at work. Yet it is also driven by a growing recognition that collective action can strengthen entire regions. When workers gain a voice, standards rise, families gain stability, and communities benefit.

As Sen. Bernie Sanders observed in 2023, working people across every sector are organizing and taking action against widening inequality and corporate excess. That reality continues to shape the present moment. What is equally important, though less often said, is what grows alongside that organizing: stronger communities, deeper civic engagement, and a renewed belief that collective effort can improve the places where we live.

That legacy is reflected in the life of Alex Pretti and in the momentum building across the labor movement today.



## Label Letter

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