



**Officers**

**Chair**

Judith L. Lichtman  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families

**Vice Chairs**

Jacqueline Pata  
National Congress of American Indians  
Thomas A. Saenz

Mexican American Legal  
Defense and Educational Fund

Hilary Shelton

NAACP

**Secretary**

Jo Ann Jenkins

AARP

**Treasurer**

Lee A. Saunders

American Federation of State,  
County & Municipal Employees

**Board of Directors**

Helena Berger

American Association of  
People with Disabilities

Kimberly Churches

AAUW

Kristen Clarke

Lawyers' Committee for  
Civil Rights Under Law

Lily Eskelsen Garcia

National Education Association

Fatima Goss Graves

National Women's Law Center

Chad Griffin

Human Rights Campaign

Wylecia Wiggs Harris

League of Women Voters of the  
United States

Mary Kay Henry

Service Employees International Union

Sherrilyn Ifill

NAACP Legal Defense and  
Educational Fund, Inc.

David H. Inoue

Japanese American Citizens League

Derrick Johnson

NAACP

Michael B. Keegan

People for the American Way

Samer E. Khalaf

American-Arab

Anti-Discrimination Committee

Marc Morial

National Urban League

Janet Murguía

UnidosUS

Debra L. Ness

National Partnership for  
Women & Families

Terry O'Neill

National Organization for Women

Rabbi Jonah Pesner

Religious Action Center

Of Reform Judaism

Anthony Romero

American Civil Liberties Union

Shanna Smith

National Fair Housing Alliance

Richard L. Trumka

AFL-CIO

Randi Weingarten

American Federation of Teachers

Dennis Williams

International Union, UAW

John C. Yang

Asian Americans Advancing Justice |

AAJC

**Policy and Enforcement**

**Committee Chair**

Michael Lieberman

Anti-Defamation League

**President & CEO**

Vanita Gupta

September 26, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander

Chairman

Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

United States Senate

428 Senate Dirksen Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray

Ranking Member

Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions

United States Senate

428 Senate Dirksen Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

**Oppose the Nomination of Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor**

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of approximately 200 national advocacy organizations, I am writing to express our opposition to the confirmation of Patrick Pizzella to serve as Deputy Secretary at the Department of Labor. We previously joined numerous civil rights, human rights, labor, and community organizations to raise concerns about Mr. Pizzella's record, concerns that a hearing in July failed to address.

As we previously noted, Mr. Pizzella worked closely with Jack Abramoff to lobby for policies on the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands that essentially allowed for unchecked slave labor to be performed with the imprimatur of the "Made in the U.S.A." label on goods and clothing. At his hearing, Mr. Pizzella repeatedly refused to offer straightforward answers to simple questions posed by Senators and provided no real assurances that he is committed to protecting the rights of workers.

Mr. Pizzella, if confirmed, would essentially be the Chief Operating Officer of the department tasked with protecting a wide range of core labor rights, including proper payment under the wage and hour laws, the civil rights of federal contract workers, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and more. Yet he has not done enough to repudiate his past record of defending companies that routinely ignored these rights, and he has not given workers adequate reason to believe that he will defend their rights in the future.

Based on Mr. Pizzella's record and the little additional information obtained from his hearing, The Leadership Conference must oppose his confirmation. Thank you for your



consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Randhava, Senior Counsel, at (202) 466-3311.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vanita Gupta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and a long, sweeping tail.

Vanita Gupta  
President & CEO