



FEW Washington Legislative Update September 16 - September 30, 2022

In Congress:

On Thursday, September 29, President Biden signed into law [S. 2293, the “Civilian Reservist Emergency Workforce Act of 2021”](#) or the “CREW Act,” which grants employment protections under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to Federal Emergency Management Agency reservists who deploy to major disaster sites.

On Friday, September 30, the Biden-Harris Administration awarded [\\$225 million in American Rescue Plan funds](#) to train over 13,000 Community Health Workers (CHWs). In response to the acute need to expand the health care workforce and address pandemic-related burnout, the American Rescue Plan provided historical investments. Among these investments, President Biden’s American Rescue Plan provided a total of over \$1.1 billion for community health, outreach, and health education workers—the largest ever one-time investment in the nation’s community health workforce.

On Friday, September 30, President Biden signed into law [H.R. 6833, the “Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023,”](#) which provides fiscal year 2023 appropriations to Federal agencies through December 16, 2022, for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government and includes supplemental appropriations to respond to the situation in Ukraine.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Is there supposed to be something here or is the President’s Proclamation the information? If so, delete the extra spaces between the headers.

President Biden’s Proclamation on Minority Enterprise Development Week 2022

“Every day, America’s 9.2 million minority business enterprises deliver essential goods and services to their customers and help power the United States economy. They develop cutting-edge technologies, provide social services to people in need, construct roads and bridges, operate restaurants and retail shops, and make vital contributions to all industries. Minority business enterprises also provide proprietors and employees a sense of purpose, a source of dignity, and for some, a valuable asset to pass down through generations. During Minority Enterprise Development Week, we celebrate the ingenuity and dedication of America’s minority entrepreneurs, and we recommit to helping all Americans access the resources they need to build thriving businesses and a fairer, more prosperous Nation.

Minority business enterprises generate \$1.8 trillion in annual GDP and provide income to millions of workers, yet many of these businesses suffer from the vestiges of historical discrimination. Obstacles to accessing capital, barriers to entering new markets, and limited access to Government contracts make it difficult for operators to start and grow their enterprises. Minority business owners are still more likely to be turned down for loans, earn less revenue, and employ fewer workers than their non-minority counterparts. Today, firms owned by Black Americans, Latinos, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders make up approximately 18 percent of employer businesses, yet receive just over 10 percent of Federal procurement spending. These disparities contribute to America’s racial wealth gap; estimates suggest that differences in business ownership account for 20 percent of the wealth gap between the average white household and the average Black household.

My Administration is committed to changing that. We have taken historic steps to counter chronic underinvestment in Black and Brown communities, boosting access to capital and markets. Our American Rescue Plan established the \$10 billion State Small Business Credit Initiative at the Department of the Treasury, which will provide funding to States, territories, and Tribal Governments to establish lending and investment programs for main-street small businesses and early-stage companies in disadvantaged areas. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law made permanent the Minority Business Development Agency, the only Federal agency dedicated to linking minority-owned businesses to private lenders, exporters, and public- and private-sector buyers; and it directs the Department of Transportation to prioritize contracts to small disadvantaged businesses. My Administration is also using the Federal Government’s tremendous purchasing power to drive change: We have pledged to boost the share of Federal contracting dollars awarded to small disadvantaged businesses by an unprecedented 50 percent by 2025, which is projected to bring minority-owned businesses as much as \$100 billion in new revenue over this time period.

Our work is far from finished. I am calling on Congress to strengthen funding for the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency to

support women, people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, and other underserved business owners. I have also called for the expansion of the Treasury Department's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, which will help local lenders deliver more credit, capital, and financial support to historically overlooked business owners and communities.

Since this Nation's founding, owning and operating a business has been an important path to achieving the American dream. This week and every week, my Administration will work to ensure that minority entrepreneurs have the resources to start and grow their own businesses, enriching their communities and the Nation. Together, we will grow the economy from the bottom up and the middle out, making sure it works for everyone.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 18 through September 24, 2022, as Minority Enterprise Development Week. I call upon the people of the United States to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and contributions of minority business owners and enterprises and commit to promote systemic economic equality.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh."

- President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Sourced From: [\(The White House\)](#)

FEW Washington Legislative Update – September 16-30, 2022 Tier I

Can Apprenticeships Help Address the Cyber Workforce Gap?

Apprenticeships are workforce development programs hosted by employers, unions, and industry groups that prepare workers for a specific occupation with on-the-job training and instructions.

The cybersecurity workforce shortage facing the public sector and the private sector is well known. Officials at the Department of Labor are hoping apprenticeships can help fill the gap.

The department supports "registered apprenticeship" programs across multiple professions that are designed to give candidates needed experience while also

supporting wage increases and requiring specific types and amounts of supervised experience and training.

In July, the Labor Department, along with the Department of Commerce, launched the 120-day sprint to spur employers to expand the use of registered apprenticeships in cybersecurity at a summit on the cyber workforce hosted by the White House's Office of the National Cyber Director.

The goal, according to Manny Lamarre, a senior advisor at the Department of Labor, is to "promote registered apprenticeship as a solution for numerous industries to develop and train a skilled workforce around cybersecurity."

When the sprint launched there were 714 registered apprenticeship programs for cyber-related occupations. Since then, 99 new programs have been approved or are in development, according to Lamarre. His data is current through September 16, about the halfway point of the sprint. Nearly 2,900 individuals have signed onto cyber apprenticeships since the sprint launched, Lamarre said.

The Labor Department is working with several agencies to develop registered apprenticeship programs for cybersecurity, including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Lamarre told Federal Cybersecurity Workforce via email.

So far, the biggest barrier to increasing the use of apprenticeships for cybersecurity jobs in the federal government has been a lack of awareness, he said. The Defense Department has a registered apprenticeship program that includes cyber occupations, he said, and the Labor Department is working with them to add more.

The drive for apprenticeships in the cybersecurity industry falls under a broader push to promote new pathways into the cybersecurity field that don't require four-year degrees. The registered apprenticeship model emphasizes on-the-job training and mentoring. Apprentices eventually finish with credentials for the trade.

The idea has also seen interest on Capitol Hill. The Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Expansion Act, a bill introduced in June 2021 by Sens. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) and approved by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, would direct the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish its own cyber apprenticeship program.

In addition to raising awareness about the use of registered apprenticeships in cybersecurity, the Labor Department is also focused on using the sprint to advance

diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility and connect employers and job seekers, Lamarre said.

Sourced From: ([Government Executive](#))

FEW Washington Legislative Update – September 16-30, 2022 Tier II

Only Two Agencies Had Submitted Their Schedule F Plans for Approval Before Its Rescission, But Several Others Had Begun Work

A new report from a congressional watchdog agency sheds light on the Trump administration's attempt to remove potentially thousands of federal workers in policy-related positions from the competitive civil service and make them at-will employees.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report Wednesday analyzing how agencies worked to implement former President Trump's Schedule F executive order in the waning days of his administration, until President Biden took office and quickly rescinded the policy edict.

Schedule F called for career federal workers employed in some policy-related positions to be moved into a new job category outside of the competitive service, stripping them of their civil service protections and making them effectively at-will employees. The proposal was heavily criticized by federal employee organizations and good government groups, who warned it would politicize the federal workforce and mark a return of the 19th century spoils system. Conservatives have begun to rally behind the idea again in recent months, with Trump and think tanks signaling they would revive the measure under the next Republican administration.

GAO studied the effort to implement Schedule F between October 2020, when Trump signed the executive order establishing the new job classification, and January 2021, when Biden was inaugurated and rescinded the directive, and spoke with stakeholders both inside and out of government about the plan. The watchdog agency found that only two agencies—the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission—submitted their plans for moving jobs into Schedule F to the Office of Personnel Management for approval, although several other agencies indicated that they were working on their own proposals.

Of the 13 agencies that communicated with OPM about implementation but had not submitted a proposal, seven reported that they needed additional time to analyze positions across their agency, while another six said they either did not have a need for

the expedited hiring and firing afforded by Schedule F or did not have any positions that would qualify for the new job category.

In the case of OMB, which was slated to see 68 percent of its workforce converted to Schedule F, officials there said agency leaders pushed for fast approval of their plan because “then-administration officials wanted OMB to serve as an example for other agencies to follow.” Although OPM approved OMB’s petition on January 8, 2021, the agency ultimately was unable to convert any positions to Schedule F because its HR staff was too busy preparing for the presidential transition, and officials with the Biden administration instructed staff to stop working on the controversial plan on January 20.

Over at the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission, only five of the agency’s 234 employees were slated to move into Schedule F. The agency submitted its plan on January 19, 2021, and OPM was unable to review the proposal before Biden rescinded the executive order.

Officials at the agency, which applies boundary and water treaties between the U.S. and Mexico, said the expedited hiring and firing offered by Schedule F was appealing to senior leaders, particularly given the location of its offices in remote locations along the southern border.

“Another factor officials noted was the desire to have employees who the commissioner trusted to expeditiously carry out policy decisions,” GAO wrote. “Finally, they said that there was a desire to have the flexibility to quickly remove poorly performing employees rather than wait for them to retire, leave or go through the removal process, which they said was lengthy.”

Sourced From: ([Government Executive](#))

FEW Washington Legislative Update – September 16-30, 2022 Tier III

Readout of White House Meeting with State Legislative Leaders on Reproductive Rights Legislation

On September 20, Jen Klein, Director of the White House Gender Policy Council, and Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Senior Advisor to the President and Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, chaired a meeting with state legislative leaders on state legislative efforts to advance access to reproductive health care amidst unprecedented attacks from Republican officials.

So far in 2022, 12 states have enacted more than 25 bills to protect and expand access to abortion, including by expanding who can provide abortions; advancing private and state funding of abortion services; taking steps to protect providers and patients; and codifying the right to abortion into state law. In May, prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, White House Senior Officials met with legislative leaders from states working on proactive reproductive rights legislation. A week after the decision, the President met with Governors to discuss opportunities for executive action and their support for proactive state legislative agendas to protect and expand access to reproductive health care. Since then, several states have passed legislation to support access to abortion, including California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York.

In the meeting, state legislative leaders discussed the affirmative steps they have taken so far, and shared proposals to protect reproductive health and rights under consideration for the 2023 state legislative session. White House Senior Officials thanked the leaders for their efforts and ongoing partnership with the White House.

State legislative leaders included:

California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, Washington President Pro Tempore Karen Keiser, Oregon House Majority Leader Julie Fahey, California Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Colorado State Representative Meg Froelich, Connecticut State Representative Jillian Gilchrest, Delaware State Senator Kyle Gay, Illinois State Representative Kelly Cassidy, Maryland Delegate Ariana Kelly, Massachusetts State Senator Cindy Friedman, Massachusetts State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Massachusetts State Representative Liz Miranda, New Mexico Senator Linda Lopez, New York State Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Oregon State Representative Travis Nelson

Sourced From: [\(The White House\)](#)

The articles and information posted in this publication are obtained from other qualified published sources and are protected under copyright laws.