

CWA

CWA Worker Power Agenda

It is increasingly clear that billionaires and corporations have come to dominate our political system. As a result, public policy reflects the preferences of those very powerful interests. We have seen huge tax cuts for the super-wealthy and corporations that offshore jobs, the gutting of worker protection agencies and attacks on union rights, and the greenlighting of technologies that worsen or displace jobs in order to enhance corporate profits. And what has the working class received? Job cuts, health care cost increases, ever-higher prices, and attacks on our unions. It is time to reclaim our power and put workers over billionaires.

Communications Workers of America
501 3rd Street NW,
Washington, DC 20001

(202) 434-1100

CWA.org

@CWAUnion     

Good Jobs and Strong Unions

For years, CWA members have faced attacks on our jobs and our unions from greedy corporations and anti-worker politicians. In recent years, many of those problems have worsened with the gutting of worker protection agencies, the increasing use of artificial intelligence systems without guardrails, and a tax code that increasingly rewards profits instead of good job creation. It's time for policies that protect good jobs and strong unions.

Affordable, Reliable Health Care

As a result of federal policies enacted last year, millions of working class families are losing their health care entirely and tens of millions more are facing massive cost increases. While collective bargaining has protected most CWA members from those horrible outcomes, it is increasingly difficult to protect strong health care coverage while also securing the pay, other benefits and working conditions that we need and deserve. Moreover, the surge in people losing insurance coverage will harm all of us by forcing the closure of hospitals and medical facilities, while shifting costs onto employer plans. We need to expand and improve Medicare, restore coverage for those who lost coverage, and address the skyrocketing costs of health care for all of us.

Stopping Corporations from Ripping Us Off

It has become harder and harder for the working class to make ends meet, all while billionaires and corporate executives rake in more and more money. This dynamic has worsened as corporations have exploited global events to raise prices, as well as through the increasing use of technology to pay us less and charge us more. We need stronger protections to ensure fair wages, fair prices, and more money in our pockets.

Ending Corporate Corruption of our Political System

The biggest challenge to enacting policies that benefit the working class and help us build better futures for ourselves and our families is our broken political system. Billionaires and multinational corporations are able to spend hundreds of millions to put their preferred candidates in office and to defeat candidates who fight for the working class, while trying to silence our voices at the ballot box. Major reform is needed to enable us to pass the whole range of policies needed to build better lives for working families.

Good Jobs and Strong Unions

H.R. 20/S. 852, the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act: This bill would restore the right of workers to freely and fairly form a union and bargain together for changes in the workplace. The PRO Act would strengthen penalties against companies for illegally firing workers for union activity, ban mandatory anti-union captive audience meetings, prevent worker misclassification, protect workers' right to strike, and utilize arbitration to help workers get their first contracts sooner.

H.R. 2736/S. 1352, the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act: This bill would set minimum standards to ensure that all state, local and municipal workers nationwide have the right to organize and collectively bargain. If enacted, public employees would have the freedom to join together in a union, collectively bargain, access mediation or arbitration mechanisms, use voluntary payroll deduction for union dues, and sue in court to enforce their labor rights.

H.R. 5206/S. 2731, the Empowering Striking Workers Act: This bill would help to protect workers from the financial and personal risks of striking. It would make workers across the country who go on strike, or who are being locked out, eligible for unemployment benefits after 14 days of striking.

H.R. 995/S. 409, the No Tax Breaks for Outsourcing Act: This bill would eliminate the tax breaks that motivate companies to move much needed American jobs overseas. H.R. 1, the massive budget bill enacted in 2025, creates permanent lower rates for foreign profits, creating incentives for companies to move money and jobs overseas. The No Tax Breaks for Outsourcing Act would level the playing field and incentivize domestic investment.

H.R. 6371, the No Robot Bosses Act: This bill would prevent discrimination and wrongful discipline by prohibiting employers from relying exclusively on an automated decision system in making an employment-related decision, enhancing protections for both job applicants and company employees.

H.R. 4954/S. 2495, the Keep Call Centers in America Act: This bill would create accountability measures for companies that continue to disinvest in our communities and eliminate customer service jobs. To better protect call center workers and American consumers, the bill would require businesses to notify the Department of Labor before relocating a call center overseas, create a public list of employers that have offshored jobs, require all call center work performed on federal contracts to be performed in the U.S., and require call center agents to immediately disclose the physical location of the call center and upon request by the customer transfer to a call center in the U.S. It would likewise give customers speaking to Artificial Intelligence agents the right to be transferred to an actual person.

Affordable, Reliable Health Care

Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act (H.R. 6166): Although Medicare’s drug price negotiations provide savings for retirees, active employees under employer health plans do not see relief in their drug costs. The bill would reduce one of the biggest hurdles at the bargaining table by:

- Extending the drug price negotiation program to all Americans with private coverage;
- Ensuring the inflation rebates enacted under the Inflation Reduction Act apply to individuals covered by private health plans;
- Increasing the annual number of prescription drugs selected for negotiation to 50;
- Extending the annual \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap on prescription drugs to people with private health insurance;
- Limiting out-of-pocket costs for insulin at \$35 per month for people with private health insurance;
- Closing the drug price negotiation loophole, which allows pharmaceutical companies to avoid negotiating prices for year; and
- Requiring the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to consider the international price for the drug when negotiating prices.

Medicare Dental, Hearing, and Vision Expansion Act (S. 939): The bill helps Medicare-eligible retirees by expanding Medicare to cover dentures and comprehensive vision care, including eye exams and prescription eyeglasses. The bill also expands Medicare to provide comprehensive hearing care to all Medicare recipients with moderate or profound hearing loss including prescription hearing aids and provide preventive and procedural dental care to all Medicare recipients to cover cleanings, x-rays and fillings.

Protecting Health Care and Lowering Costs Act (H.R. 4849/S. 2556): This bill reverses the cuts to both Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act that resulted from the passage of H.R. 1, the major budget legislation, last year. It prevents the rising costs for collectively bargained health care plans by decreasing the number of patients who hospitals and other medical providers treat without being compensated given the patient’s inability to pay; that dynamic has shifted costs to employer plans.

Stopping Corporations from Ripping Us Off

Double the Wage for Overtime Act: This bill would update the Fair Labor Standards Act to guarantee covered workers with at least double our hourly wage for working overtime instead of the current minimum of time-and-a-half. Workers who work extremely long hours should be compensated for doing so, and the Double Time for Overtime Act will help make that happen.

H.R. 2743/S. 1332, the Raise the Wage Act: The federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour has not been increased 2009. The value of the minimum wage is the lowest it has been since 1956. This bill would gradually raise the federal minimum wage to \$17 per hour by 2030 and then index the minimum wage to inflation after that.

H.R. 4528/S. 2321, the Price Gouging Prevention Act: Corporations have increasingly exploited market disruptions, natural disasters and other events to gouge consumers, but the existing bans on price gouging are difficult to enforce and companies routinely are able to escape accountability. This bill would clarify that price gouging is an unfair and deceptive practice under federal law, while enabling the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to stop sellers from charging grossly excessive prices, regardless of circumstances. It would also enhance transparency by requiring publicly traded companies to clearly disclose costs and pricing strategies.

H.R. 5862, the American Energy Independence and Affordability Act: H.R. 1, the budget law enacted in 2025, repealed numerous tax incentives both for companies investing in manufacturing and deploying clean energy production and for consumers making energy efficiency improvements to their homes or purchasing more energy-efficient cars and lowering their energy bills in the process. H.R. 5862 would restore those tax breaks to both help customers lower their energy bills and to help create more good union jobs manufacturing clean energy products.

H.R. 4640, the Stop AI Price Gouging and Wage Fixing Act: This bill would ban companies from utilizing artificial intelligence-derived surveillance data to set prices and wages. The use of this surveillance data in setting prices and wages often means that companies are able to charge the highest prices or offer the lowest wages to people in the most precarious financial situations.

Ending Corporate Corruption of our Political System

H.R. 5106/S. 3649, the Restore Trust in Congress Act: This bill would prohibit Members of Congress, their spouses, and dependent family members from trading individual stocks. This is a crucial step toward eliminating personal financial incentives from the legislative process and restoring trust that decisions impacting workers' economic lives are made in the public interest, not driven by private gain.

H.R. 14/S. 2523, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA): The Supreme Court's rulings in *Shelby County v. Holder* and *Louisiana v. Callais* have gutted the original Voting Rights Act of 1965, stripping away the federal government and the court's powers to block and respond to state's discriminatory voting changes. The John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act would help address these systemic issues, restore the power of the Voting Rights Act, and protect millions of Americans from having their voting rights violated. Namely, this bill would establish new preclearance standards for state and local governments to make changes to their voting laws, create a new formula for detecting repeated instances of voting rights violations, and ensure that public officials announce all voting changes at least 180 days before an election.

Freedom to Vote Act: Growing corruption, political greed, and newly erected barriers to the ballot box have undermined the confidence of working people that our democracy is truly of, by, and for the people. This bill would restore political power to America's working families by banning partisan gerrymandering, strengthening existing penalties for voter intimidation, banning the spread of false and misleading information, making Election Day a federal holiday, and requiring all 50 states to offer early voting periods and mail-in ballots.