# Ensuring Rights and Remedies for Immigrant Workers Under the NLRA



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We're an independent federal agency that protects the rights of privatesector employees (and USPS employees) to join together to improve their working conditions. Employees in both unionized and non-unionized workplaces have these rights.



## We protect employees' rights to:

- engage in group efforts to improve their wages and working conditions
- determine whether they want to be represented by a union
- engage in collective-bargaining
- refrain from any of these activities

### Who we protect

The National Labor Relations Act covers employees of most private businesses in the United States, including:







Workers at small businesses

Workers at nonprofits

Workers in states with "Right-to-Work" laws

### Coverage exceptions

Some groups are excluded from protections, including:







Agricultural workers

Independent contractors

Domestic workers

### Right to Engage in Union Activity



Employees have the right form, join or assist labor organizations

## Right to Engage in Protected Concerted Activity

- •Two or more employees act together to improve their working conditions
- •A single employee brings group complaints to an employer or tries to convince co-workers to act together as a group



## **Examples of Protected Concerted Activity**

- Talking with one or more co-workers about wages and benefits or other working conditions.
- Participating in a concerted refusal to work (strike) in unsafe conditions.
- Circulating a petition asking for better hours.
- Joining with co-workers to talk directly to a labor organization, the boss, a government agency, or the media about problems in the workplace.
- Filing a wage and hour lawsuit with co-workers.

### In response to union or protected concerted activity, an employer is prohibited from taking any of these actions:



Firing or demoting the employee



Reducing pay, hours, or benefits



Transferring the employee to another location



Contacting law enforcement, including ICE



Imposing new paperwork requirements to maintain employment



Making working conditions less desirable, e.g., altering work schedules, denying overtime, isolating the employee



Threatening to do any of these things

## Workers Are Protected Under the NLRA Regardless of Immigration Status



### GC Abruzzo's Initiatives

- GC 21-06 Seeking Full remedies
- GC 21-07 Full Remedies in Settlement Agreements
- GC 22-01 Ensuring Rights and Remedies for Immigrant Workers Under the NLRA
- GC 22-02 Seeking 10(j) Injunctions in Response to Unlawful Threats or Other Coercion During Union Organizing Campaigns
- GC 22-03 Inter-agency Coordination

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## What to know before filing a charge:

- It's free and can be done online or at any of our offices
- You must file a charge within 6 months of the alleged unlawful conduct
- You don't need a lawyer
- If you need assistance, an NLRB agent will help you fill out the charge correctly
- Translators are available for non-English speakers

### Certifying U and T Visas

- NLRB will certify for individuals who have been helpful to a NLRB investigation or litigation that is related in some way to a qualifying crime, and who have suffered harm as a victim of a qualifying crime.
- Bona Fide Determination Process.
- New guidance from USCIS specifically providing for an expedited Bona Fide Determination process which labor agencies can request based on cases we identify as urgent.

## Prosecutorial Discretion and Work Authorization

- NLRB may make request to DHS/USCIS in appropriate cases involving workers who are victims of, or witnesses to, violations of our Act who make request to NLRB.
- Working with DOL, EEOC, DOJ IER and DHS on process from the DHS side.
- From the NLRB side, after filing a charge, indicate to NLRB investigator the need at a particular worksite.

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