



Statement of Bridget Devane, HPAE Director Public Policy

Re: The Nomination of Andrew Puzder for Secretary of Labor

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

As NJ's largest union of healthcare professionals HPAE members have fought for health and safety protections to ensure safe patient care and to provide health professionals a safe work environment.

At this moment, we have a nominee for secretary of labor whose record and policy positions are in stark contrast to past labor secretaries. Andrew Puzder's positions on key labor policies are bad for American workers and should disqualify him from serving as secretary of labor.

As the CEO of CKE Restaurants, Puzder's track record shows he will not support proposals to strengthen worker and health safety protections. Puzder has opposed raising the minimum wage; criticized paid sick time proposals; and has violated health and safety regulations. Andrew Puzder headed a company with a record of violating laws and regulations that protect workers' wages, safety, and rights. Puzder's confirmation as the Secretary of Labor would pose a threat to our nation's economy and its workers. Puzder's policies would be an assault on critical worker protections, would jeopardize and weaken the foundation built and gains made during the Obama administration, giving rise to greater inequality.

Studies prove that failure to enforce safety and health standards has a human cost. In 2015, 4,836 workers died as the result of a workplace injury. The next labor secretary must work to enforce the laws that protect our nation's workers.

HPAE opposes the nomination of Andrew Puzder for Secretary of Labor and asks every member of the New Jersey delegation to oppose his appointment.

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "[Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary, 2015](#)" (Economic News Release), December 16, 2016.

2. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "[Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Summary, 2015](#)" (Economic News Release), December 16, 2016.