



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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Obama Administration Unveils Working Families Task Force President Also Signs Pro-Worker Executive Orders

WASHINGTON, DC – Today at the White House President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden announced the creation of the White House Task Force on Middle-Class Working Families. This cabinet level task force will be chaired by Vice President Biden and is tasked with rebuilding America's middle-class through raising the living standard of working families. Its goals are to expand education and lifelong training opportunities, restore workplace and labor standards, protect and increase middle-class incomes, and safeguard pensions and retirement security.

The President also signed three Executive Orders to overturn the past administration's one-sided pro-business agenda. Today's Executive Orders will require federal contractors to:

- Post a notice of employee rights under the National Labor Relations Act, particularly the right to collectively bargain;
- Offer jobs to current workers when contracts change, and;
- Not expend any taxpayer funded monies for the purposes of hiring union busting companies.

President Obama said, "We need to reverse many of the policies toward organized labor we've seen these last eight years, policies with which I have sharply disagreed. I do not view the labor movement as part of the problem; to me, and to my administration, labor unions are a big part of the solution. We need to level the playing field for workers and the unions that represent their interests."

Vice President Biden said, "Mr. President, you said it best in your inaugural address, 'A nation cannot prosper long when it favors only the prosperous.' Quite simply, a strong middle class equals a strong America... That is why President Obama has asked me to lead this task force: To bring together those Cabinet Secretaries that have the greatest impact on the well-being of the middle class in our country."

IFPTE President Gregory Junemann also commented, saying that, "It certainly is refreshing to know that the White House is once again welcoming to working Americans. IFPTE applauds President Obama and Vice President Biden on today's signing of the three critically important Executive Orders to bring back concrete protections to those workers employed by federal government contractors. IFPTE also welcomes President Obama's creation of the Task Force on Middle Class Working Families. We are confident that under the leadership of Vice President Biden that this task force will move quickly in identifying and implementing remedies aimed at providing relief to working Americans and rebuilding the middle-class."

Workers can provide input and ideas about the economy, and track the work of the task force by accessing their webpage at www.astrongmiddleclass.gov.

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