

## **PRO Act News Coverage July 6, 2021**

### **NATIONAL COVERAGE**

#### **Voters Wary of PRO Act**

National Law Review

July 2, 2021

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/beltway-buzz-july-2-2021-labor-and-employment-developments>

As part of the ongoing lobbying campaign over the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019 (PRO Act), this week the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace released the results of a survey regarding the public's opinions of the bill. A bipartisan firm surveyed more than 1,000 voters and concluded, among other findings, that: 70% of voters are concerned about the PRO Act abolishing state right-to-work protections. 70% of voters are concerned that the PRO Act limits the ability of individuals to work as independent contractors. 68% of voters are concerned about the PRO Act interfering with small business' access to legal advice on labor law matters. The PRO Act remains stalled in the Senate for now, and advocates on both sides will undoubtedly continue their lobbying efforts.

#### **New Poll Reveals Bipartisan Disapproval For The PRO Act**

Townhall

Gabriella Hoffman

July 5, 2021

<https://townhall.com/columnists/gabriellahoffman/2021/07/05/new-poll-reveals-bipartisan-disapproval-for-the-pro-act-n2592035>

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce highlighted a new poll by Forbes Tate Partners, a bipartisan government affairs and research firm, showing growing opposition to the PRO Act. Their newly released survey, National Survey: Voters Are Concerned About the PRO Act and Its Negative Impacts on Workers and Small Businesses, had some interesting findings. Here's a summary: 70% of respondents polled—including 68% of Democrats, 65% of Independents, and 74% of Republicans—are concerned about the PRO Act abolishing state right-to-work protections, forcing workers to pay union dues or risk losing their jobs. 57% of respondents polled—including 47% of Democrat and 69% of Independent respondents—don't believe workers should be coerced into union arrangements. 55% of respondents polled believe unions are too powerful versus 34% who believe they aren't powerful enough. 70% of respondents said the PRO Act will restrict individuals' ability to work as independent contractors. The Chamber also observed many American workers are concerned about their private information being shared with unions were the PRO Act to pass: As one might expect, survey respondents were also very concerned about the PRO Act's assault on workers' privacy by forcing employers to turn over to union organizers private information about employees without their consent. Some of that information includes home addresses, personal email addresses, and personal cell phone numbers, and the bill places no restriction on how unions may use that

information or with whom they may share it. This aspect of the PRO Act garnered opposition from 75% of voters, with 47% saying they were very concerned by this intrusion of their privacy, just as they have been with similar proposals in the past.

### **Workers Are Reaping Benefits In The Post-covid Economy. But Their Power May Not Last.**

POLITICO

Megan Cassella

July 5, 2021

<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/07/05/workers-benefits-covid-economy-power-497907>

The PRO Act, which the president included in his sweeping American Jobs Plan, has been a priority for unions and Democratic leadership for years, and the House passed it in March. But the labor-backed legislation is unlikely to make it through the Senate, where it would need 60 votes, and where even some Democrats have declined to sign on in support. Still, some labor leaders are hoping the current environment will encourage more organization among workers, who are worn out by the coronavirus pandemic and unwilling to return to work at the same wages and under the same conditions as before the shutdowns. Their hope is that non-unionized workers will band together to maintain pressure on employers over the long term.

### **Amazon Transformed Seattle. Now, Its Workers Are Poised To Take It Back.**

The New York Times

E. Tammy Kim

July 5, 2021

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/05/opinion/bezos-amazon-bessmer-labor.html>

“The labor movement still has 14 million workers. It’s going to take a mass mobilization of union workers to engage Amazon workers,” Todd Crosby, UFCW’s organizing director, told me. “What if at least 5 percent, 700,000 people, were mobilized to go out and be organizers to contact people in their community?”

### **Beltway Buzz - July 2021 | Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.**

JDSupra

James Plunkett

July 2, 2021

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/beltway-buzz-july-2021-3306504/>

Voters Wary of PRO Act. As part of the ongoing lobbying campaign over the Protecting the Right to Organize Act of 2019 (PRO Act), this week the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace released the results of a survey regarding the public’s opinions of the bill. A bipartisan firm surveyed more than 1,000 voters and concluded, among other findings, that: ... . The PRO Act remains stalled in the Senate for now, and advocates on both sides will undoubtedly continue their lobbying efforts.

## **The Republican Backlash Against Corporations Isn't Real — Yet**

Vox

Zack Beauchamp

July 3, 2021

<https://www.vox.com/22545125/republicans-corporate-america-education-polarization>

When Rubio wrote an op-ed in March supporting the unionization drive at an Amazon plant in Alabama, he argued on pure culture war grounds — casting his position as punishment for Amazon removing an anti-trans book from its book store. He also said that he would continue to oppose the PRO Act, the transformative pro-union bill passed by Democrats in the House, because “adversarial relations between labor and management are wrong.”

## **'Pattern Of Corruption': House GOP Demands Biden Admin Explain Questionable Union Relationships**

BizPac Review

Vivek Saxena

July 3, 2021

<https://www.bizpacreview.com/2021/07/03/pattern-of-corruption-house-gop-demands-biden-admin-explain-questionable-union-relationships-1098314/>

“It’s no surprise that President Biden’s union boss appointments have resulted in anti-worker policies like the PRO Act and the \$15 minimum wage,” Alfredo Ortiz said to Axios. Some might argue that the president’s crossing of ethics boundaries is also no surprise given all the other ethical issues plaguing his administration, including rampant nepotism.

## **'Utter Betrayal': Angry Activists Who Helped Elect Kyrsten Sinema Say 'She Has No Values'**

AlterNet

Igor Derysh, Steven Salterio

July 3, 2021

<https://www.alternet.org/2021/07/krista-sinema/>

The Equality Act is just one of the major pieces of Democratic legislation that has languished in Congress as a result of the filibuster. Republicans have also filibustered the For the People Act, a sweeping voting rights bill, and the threat of a filibuster has impeded progress on policing reform and the PRO Act, which would strengthen unions.

## **Rosen Joins Vice President Harris To Visit Carpenters International Training Center**

Jacky Rosen, U.S. Senator For Nevada

Press Release

July 3, 2021

<https://www.rosen.senate.gov/rosen-joins-vice-president-harris-visit-carpenters-international-training-center>

Rosen is a co-sponsor of the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, legislation which would strengthen federal protections for workers' right to organize and bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

### **Why Sectoral Bargaining Matters For The Labor Movement**

Jacobin

Trent McDonald

July 4, 2021

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2021/07/sectoral-national-industry-wide-bargaining-contracts-us-unions>

The PRO Act would revise key pieces of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of 1935, providing real financial punishments for violations of organizing rights. The bill now faces a tough fight in the US Senate, and business pushback — the killer of numerous labor-law reform efforts in recent decades — hasn't yet begun in earnest. Still, the bill is an important one. To understand why the PRO Act would be so transformational for American labor, we have to discuss the broader labor-relations system that the PRO Act would change — in particular, the American political history that has created such enormous economic inequality and a 10.8 percent union density (the percentage of workers who are union members, or 14.3 million workers) and a 12.1 percent union coverage rate (the percentage of workers covered by collective bargaining agreements, or 16 million workers). As unions are the historical instrument of redistributing wealth and power downward, the significance of understanding how labor law impacts workers' ability to build power can't be understated.

### **The Heat Wave Shows Climate Change Is a Workers' Rights Issue**

Common Dreams

Mindy Isser

July 4, 2021

<https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/07/04/heat-wave-shows-climate-change-workers-rights-issue>

And with Biden's deeply disappointing infrastructure legislation, we're going to need a base of millions to push for a much more aggressive plan to fight climate change. That's why the Green New Deal Campaign Committee of the Democratic Socialists of America went all in on pushing for the passage of the PRO Act. Unions don't just protect members' health and safety in the workplace, they have the ability to turn regular people into political actors with the skills and tools to fight for a dignified life both on and off the job.

### **Rep. Nancy Mace Says Home Vandalized By 'Antifa Symbols And Profanity'**

Gruntstuff

Donna Miller

July 5, 2021

<https://gruntstuff.com/rep-nancy-mace-says-home-vandalized-by-antifa-symbols-and-profanity/211969/>

The photographs present entrance steps, sidewalk and avenue in entrance of the South Carolina Republican's home spray-painted with phrases together with "Cross the PRO Act," "No god, no masters," "All politicians are bastards," "F-okay you Nancy," and a number of circled "A's." The police are investigating the incident.

## **STATE COVERAGE**

### **Survey: Nearly 8 In 10 Voters Worried Of Federal Legislation Repealing Virginia's Right-To-Work Laws**

Independent-Messenger

Contributor

July 4, 2021

[https://www.emporiaindependentmessenger.com/news/article\\_86106176-db5a-11eb-baa9-fbb6bc11a73c.html](https://www.emporiaindependentmessenger.com/news/article_86106176-db5a-11eb-baa9-fbb6bc11a73c.html)

A new statewide survey shows Virginia voters have serious concerns regarding the Protecting Right to Organize (PRO) Act and the impact the federal legislation would have on workers' rights and small business if enacted by Congress. Virginia voters are most concerned that the PRO Act, which would drastically rewrite labor regulations in the U.S. and repeal Virginia's right-to-work laws, would force employees to join a union and pay dues to retain their job, turn over employees' personal information to union organizers, negatively impact small businesses and put independent contractors out of work.

### **Letters For July 6: Mayor Dyer's Plea To End The \$300 Unemployment Benefits Lacks Compassion**

The Virginian-Pilot

Nicole Abdal

July 5, 2021

<https://www.pilotonline.com/opinion/letters/vp-ed-lets-0706-20210705-rveo4gq7yfaxdiyjwvbsthwxju-story.html>

I want to thank Sen. Mark Warner for standing up with working mothers like me who rely on the flexibility that app-based work provides. I support his refusal to sign on to the Protecting the Right to Organize Act. Caring for toddlers with chronic health conditions while helping out with my husband's business creates a hectic schedule, and every day is different. Because of these responsibilities, a strict 9-to-5 work schedule or set shifts does not work for me. When I discovered shopping with Instacart and dashing with DoorDash, I found flexible earning opportunities that still let me take care of my family. However, senators in Washington are considering a bill called the PRO Act, which could redefine who can be an independent worker and who is an employee.

### **Lockdowns Were A Gift To Big Biz Designed To Kill Small Biz**

New York Post

Carol Roth  
July 5, 2021

<https://nypost.com/2021/07/05/lockdowns-were-a-gift-to-big-biz-designed-to-kill-small-biz/>

Businesses have many more intentional government bullets to dodge ahead. Mandates from raising the minimum wage to the PRO Act will make it harder for small-business owners to start and to stay in business. This is an American tragedy. Small businesses provide economic freedom for tens of millions of people. Competition from decentralized small businesses leads to more jobs, more consumer choice and better prices that benefit everyone.