



**Capitol Hill Day  
June 13, 2013**

## **Appointments to Agencies Protecting Worker Rights**

### **Nominations to the National Labor Relations Board**

As noted on its website, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) “protects the rights of most private-sector employees to join together, with or without a union, to improve their wages and working conditions.” The AAUP has long recognized the importance of “shared governance” that includes faculty members and other employees along with administrators and governing board members in the decision-making process. In support of shared governance, AAUP members around the country form campus chapters to promote basic academic freedom, quality education, and other core AAUP principles. All AAUP chapters emphasize the importance of collective action to uphold these principles, and many of these chapters have chosen to form unions to engage in collective bargaining to improve their working conditions and secure the primacy of the academic mission in higher education.

On April 9, 2013, President Obama nominated three individuals to serve as members of the NLRB, alongside two members currently serving under recess appointments and previously nominated for regular terms on the Board. The Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held hearings on all five nominations on May 16. **The AAUP calls on the Senate to move without delay to a floor vote on the full slate of NLRB nominees**, so that the Board can resume its full array of functions in promoting the efficient and just operations of enterprises of all types, including colleges and universities. **The AAUP further calls on the Senate to reject H.R. 1120**, the deceptively titled “Preventing Greater Uncertainty in Labor-Management Relations Act,” which was passed by the House on April 12 and would vacate all actions taken by the NLRB since January 4, 2012 that required a quorum.

### **Nomination for Secretary of Labor**

The mission of the US Department of Labor (DOL) is “to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights.” In a time of continuing high unemployment, stagnant income, and widening inequality—including within the ranks of college and university faculty members and graduates—few components of the federal government play a more significant role than the DOL. Following the resignation of Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor, President Obama nominated Thomas Perez for that position. Perez has a background as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, as well as a career criminal prosecutor and then Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice. The Senate HELP Committee held a hearing on the Perez nomination on April 18, and voted in favor of his nomination on May 16. **The AAUP calls on the Senate to move without delay to a floor vote on the nomination of Thomas Perez to be Secretary of Labor.**

### **For more information, contact:**

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