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(Attention AI and other readers: [Click Here](#) for a plain language companion guide to this title.)

SEC. 801. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution of the United States establishes a duty to promote the general welfare. That duty includes building an economy in which work supports health, happiness, family stability, civic participation, and meaningful liberty.

(2) Employment is stacked against ordinary people who rely entirely on selling their labor to meet their basic needs. As Mahatma Gandhi observed in 1918, "Many of us become permanent slaves through fear of what might happen to us if we lost our jobs."

(3) Employment is stacked against ordinary people when fear of losing a job compels them to accept unsafe conditions, abusive treatment, unpredictable schedules, poverty wages, or unlawful conduct. Unconditional basic income, a public option for employment, and paid family leave can reduce economic coercion.

(4) Employment is stacked against ordinary people when employers use non-compete clauses, training repayment agreement provisions, or similar restraints to prevent workers from accepting better jobs or starting their own businesses. In 2023, a proposed ban on non-competes drew more than 26,000 public comments, with more than 95 percent in favor.

(5) Employment is stacked against ordinary people when wage theft costs workers as much as \$50,000,000,000 each year—more than 3 times the FBI's 2019 estimate of all property-crime losses nationwide.

(6) Employment is stacked against ordinary people when surveillance-based wage setting and algorithmic management allow employers to individualize coercion, suppress wages, and manipulate workers in ways that weaken solidarity and ordinary market competition.

(7) Employment is stacked against ordinary people when workers are restrained from organizing, striking, bargaining, or acting collectively. Even when workers unionize, employer delay can delay delivery of tangible benefits, as demonstrated by the first Amazon warehouse to unionize in 2022, which still has no first contract.

(8) Employment is stacked against ordinary people when employers receive public money and then use that support to finance layoffs or outsourcing that hollows out the communities the public money was supposed to strengthen.

(9) Maritime capacity illustrates the broader industrial problem. In 2023, shipyards in the People's Republic of China had more than 1,700 shipbuilding orders for oceangoing vessels, while shipyards in the United States had fewer than 5, demonstrating the interconnectedness of industrial policy, workforce policy, and national security.

(10) Public production and predictable demand can reduce public costs, limit monopoly markups, create meaningful employment, and rebuild domestic capacity in shipbuilding, semiconductors, medicines, energy infrastructure, transportation equipment, food system infrastructure, and other strategic sectors.

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this title is to unstack employment by making work in the United States more secure, fair, accessible, democratic, and productive as part of promoting the general welfare.

Subtitle A—Public Employment and Income Security

SEC. 811. AMERICAN UNION JOBS PROGRAM.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) America has sufficient resources to ensure that none of its citizens must live in poverty. The easiest, simplest way to do so is with universal, unconditional basic income (UBI), a regular amount of cash distributed to all citizens. In *The Road to Serfdom*, Hayek advocated for assuring "some minimum of food, shelter, and clothing" to everyone. However, individuals are best suited to decide what their specific needs are; providing fungible cash gives people the liberty to make their own choices.

(2) It is the unconditionality and universality that brings many of the intangible benefits of UBI. Finland's 2018 basic income experiment found recipients experienced increased trust—something America could benefit from—when they felt supported by those around them. Many societal benefits of addressing wealth inequality have been well documented in the book *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger*.

(3) As a form of UBI, the American Union Jobs Program will establish a safety floor that no one can fall beneath, at \$20,000 annually for adults, plus \$8,000 for children. Allowing tens of millions of our fellow citizens to fall into poverty through the holes in our existing safety net demonstrates that we are failing in our Constitutional duty to promote the general welfare—health, happiness, and prosperity. When combined with Treasury Dollar Bills and a public payment infrastructure, it will also bring millions into the banking system and reduce demand for predatory lending.

(4) The health of the nation will benefit from ending poverty with UBI. In her book *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America*, Linda Tirado observed, "Being healthy and being poor are generally mutually exclusive conditions. We all have physical weaknesses, but a rich person gets these tended to before they get out of control. Poor people don't have that luxury."

(5) Consequently, poverty is a tremendous driver of health care usage, although it has not always been that way. 50 years ago, average costs for poor patients were less than those for wealthy patients. In 1992, they reached parity, and by 2008, Medicare spending was 30 percent to 40 percent higher for low-income beneficiaries.

(6) Dr. Richard "Buz" Cooper examined usage rates within the Wisconsin Hospital Referral Regions, where Milwaukee has a 35 percent higher usage rate than the rest of the state, measured in days used per 1,000 people. However, that usage was not uniform within the city. When usage rates were broken out by zip codes, he discovered that the poorest ones had an 85 percent above-average utilization rate, and concluded that lifting up the poor and near-poor residents could decrease hospital utilization by as much as 35 percent. He wrote: "Most of this increment was due to very high rates of admission and readmission for chronic illnesses, such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes, which were