

From: United States Department of Labor
Sent: 3/26/2015 9:54:18 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: The DOL Newsletter - March 26, 2015: Lead on Leave; Help for the Unemployed; Applauding Apprenticeship

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- [The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act Turns 45](#)
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turns-45/](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzI2LjQzNDg2NDgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMyNi40MzQ4NjQ4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTkzNTk1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxl eUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWwhbGV5QGdvd5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&107&&&https://blog.dol.gov/2015/03/26/the-federal-coal-mine-health-and-safety-act-turns-45/)>: The Coal Act's achievements and legacy are unquestioned —
leading to healthier, safer mines and steady declines in fatalities and injuries
during each decade since its passage, writes Joseph Main, assistant secretary
of labor for mine safety and health.

- [The Triangle Fire's Lasting Legacy](#) <[http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?
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the department honors Frances Perkins' legacy by pursuing the changes she fought for — better working conditions and increased safety for all of America's workers, writes Carl Fillichio, senior advisor for communications and public affairs.

- [Everything Is Better When the Sun Is Shining](#)

<http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzI2LjQzNDg2NDgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMyNi40MzQ4NjQ4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTkzNTk1JmVtYWlSaWQ9bmlra2loYWxl eUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWwhbGV5QGdvdi5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&109&&&http://blog.dol.gov/2015/03/18/everything-is-better-when-the-sun-is-shining/>: Our mission to promote and protect the welfare of workers by ensuring fair pay, safe workplaces and work-related benefits and rights dovetails seamlessly with Sunshine Week's message that open government is good government.

Briefing the Business Community

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"When it comes to investing their hard-earned retirement savings, the American people should feel confident that they're getting the best bang for their buck." That was the message Secretary Perez carried to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Capital Markets Summit on March 25. In short remarks and a question and answer session, Perez discussed the department's conflicts of interest rulemaking, designed to ensure that financial advisers are working in their clients' best interest. The Chamber of Commerce is one of many stakeholders with whom the department has consulted in the development of this regulation. Perez also thanked Chamber leadership for their support in the resolution of the recent West Coast port dispute.

- [Learn More About Conflicts of Interest](#) http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzI2LjQzNDg2NDgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMyNi40MzQ4NjQ4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTkzNTk1JmVtYWlSaWQ9bmlra2loYWxl eUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWwhbGV5QGdvdi5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&&110&&&http://www.dol.gov/_sec/newsletter/2015/20150326-2.htm#Commerce

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#Cut50 Bipartisan Coalition

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A national bipartisan coalition has formed to advocate cutting the incarcerated population by 50 percent in the next 10 years. Known as "#Cut50," the initiative has attracted key figures from across the political spectrum. Secretary Perez spoke at a conference hosted by #Cut50 on March 26 to highlight the importance of helping once incarcerated individuals transition back to their communities as a national economic issue. Steady employment plays a key role in reducing recidivism rates; a small decrease in recidivism can have measurable impacts on reducing the costs of incarceration. The department has supported re-entry programs for many years. This year, it will award more than \$60 million to expand access to federal job training and employment services to individuals exiting correctional facilities nationwide. Said Perez: "This is not just about offering hope... it's about what works. It's about pragmatic, empirical, data-driven solutions that make a difference in people's lives and make communities safer."

Harnessing the Power of 'We'

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Collective bargaining harnesses the power of "we" to give workers a voice in the workplace and create shared prosperity, Secretary Perez told members of the United Auto Workers' Collective Bargaining Convention in Detroit on March 24. At the event, UAW leaders from around the country finalized a resolution that

will serve to guide local affiliates as they negotiate contracts in the next four years. "I'm here to support your right to have a voice," Perez said. "I'm here to support the notion that when we come together in good faith, we can reach agreements that benefit employers, workers and customers."

HR Managers Can Make a Difference

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The department is encouraging personnel managers to improve their companies' compliance with wage and hour laws, and open doors and opportunities to disabled workers. On March 24, Wage and Hour Division Administrator Dr. David Weil addressed nearly 600 attendees at the Society of Human Resource Management's 2015 Employment Law and Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. "You sit in positions of great influence when it comes to improving compliance in the businesses you serve and in your industries more broadly," said Weil. "We want to continue to explore ways we can work together to get our information out there, into the hands of those who need it, and you can help us do that." SHRM renewed its alliance with the Office of Disability Employment Policy to promote employment outcomes for people with disabilities and challenged its members to consider what they can do to hire, retain and promote people with disabilities.

Women Veterans Celebrated

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To commemorate Women's History Month, Women's Bureau Director Latifa Lyles gave the keynote address at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs event "*Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives*." Lyles discussed the achievements

working women have made and the Department of Labor's efforts to help women veterans. She also lauded the work of former Women's Bureau Director Esther Peterson and her time on the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. Veterans Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Georgia Coffey presented a certificate of appreciation to Lyles after the keynote address.

Construction Roundtable

To further protect the health and safety of construction industry workers, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration convened a roundtable on March 19 with more than 25 representatives from industry and labor, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Center for Construction Research and Training. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Jordan Barab topped the agenda with updates on the agency's initiatives. The roundtable enabled all the partner agencies to share best practices, resources and upcoming campaigns with one another. Workgroups were also convened on new construction employee safety and health orientation and how best to reach the small construction contractors.

- [Learn More About Roundtables <http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzI2LjQzNDg2NDgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMyNi40MzQ4NjQ4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTkzNTk1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxl eUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWVhbGV5QGdvdj5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&116&&https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/alliances/roundtables/roundtables_construction.html>](http://links.govdelivery.com:80/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTlwMTUwMzI2LjQzNDg2NDgxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREltUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDMyNi40MzQ4NjQ4MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE2OTkzNTk1JmVtYWlsaWQ9bmlra2loYWxl eUBnb3Yuc2MuZ292JnVzZXJpZD1uaWtraWVhbGV5QGdvdj5zYy5nb3YmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUIkPSYmJg==&&116&&https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/alliances/roundtables/roundtables_construction.html)

Women and the Minimum Wage

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Women account for a little less than half of the U.S. working population, and nearly 6 in 10 workers earning the minimum wage are women. Many work full time as the sole breadwinner for their families with earnings of less than \$15,000