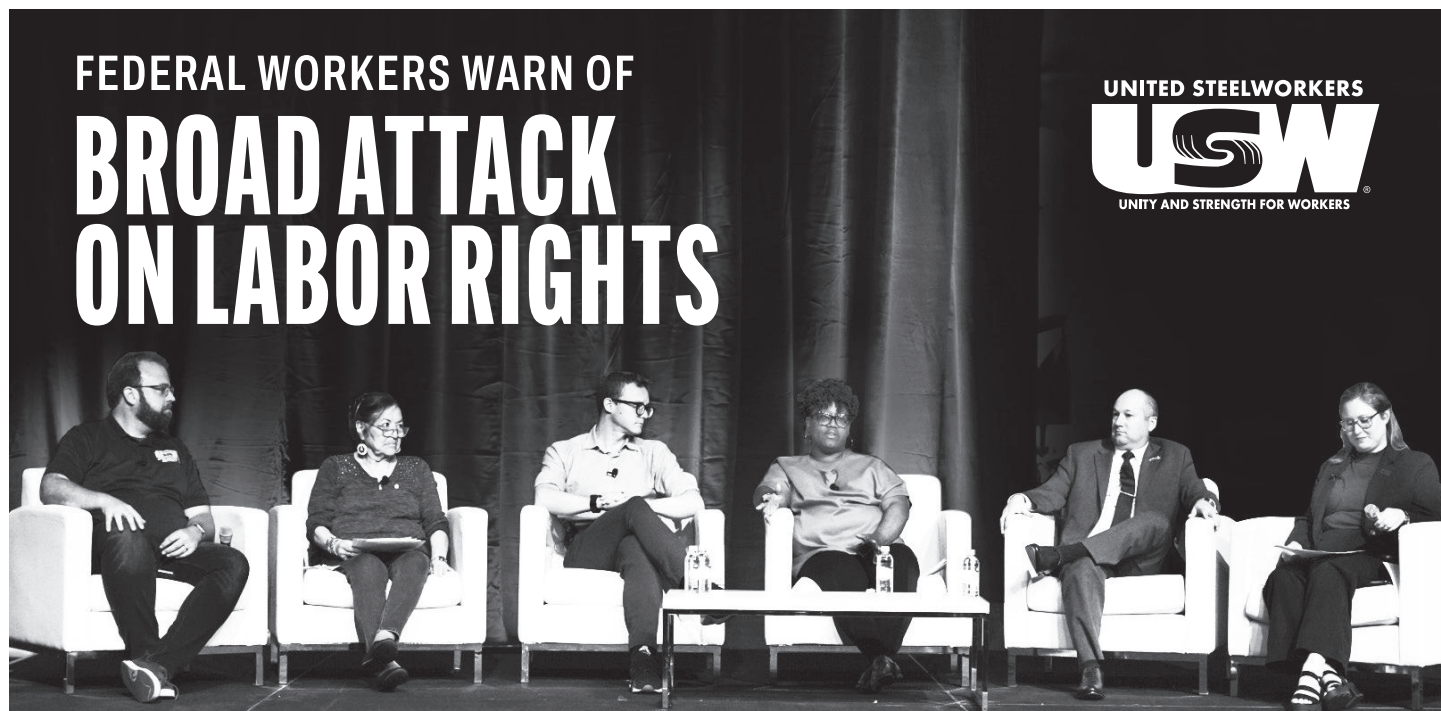


ALL IN *on* SOLIDARITY

DAY THREE | 2025 United Steelworkers Constitutional Convention Coverage



Donald Trump's attacks on the federal workforce not only devastated dedicated public servants but threaten essential services and represent the first salvo in a broader assault on labor rights, a panel of targeted federal workers warned convention delegates Wednesday.

"If it can happen to me, it can happen to you," said Shernice Mundell, a health insurance specialist with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and a member of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE).

Mundell, a single mom and military veteran, said she was given a termination notice and 30 minutes to pack up her belongings, only to be later rehired and put on administrative leave. Now, she fears she'll be axed again.

"Regardless of what your political views are, right is right and wrong is wrong," she said.

In all, following the direction of billionaire Elon Musk, the administration summarily cut tens of thousands of unionized federal workers in a "disorganized, illegal and cruel" process, recounted Lahoma "Sue" Parton, president of the Federation of Indian Service Employees, American Federation of Teachers, Local 4524.

Among many other examples, instructors at tribal colleges received termination notices mid-semester, she said. Another panelist, Steven Gutierrez, a national business representative with the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE), said some wildland firefighters received termination emails while actually fighting fires.

"People are going to die," he said, warning that the jobs cuts come as the heart of the wildfire season approaches. "Communities are going to burn."

Trump followed up his decimation of the workforce by arbitrarily cutting collective bargaining rights for hundreds of thousands of other federal workers who remained at their posts.

"It is not just the federal government," cautioned Cameron Hilaker, an AFGE member who lost his job as a USAID emergency management specialist. "They will come for you next."

Added Gutierrez: "It's going to trickle into the private sector. It's a huge assault on the American worker across the board."

Workers outside the government already

feel an impact. Trump and Musk took a chainsaw to government contracts, cutting vital biomedical research and other important initiatives simply because the projects contain references to certain words or phrases.

"When a lab closes, you can't just snap your fingers and restart that work," observed Tyler Bickford, an English professor at the University of Pittsburgh and unit president for USW Local 1088, noting a strong contract helps ensure his faculty colleagues retain a voice on the job in the wake of these changes.

Unions representing federal workers went to court in an effort to undo Trump's cuts.

Still, panelists called for union members across the country to band together, describing solidarity as the only sure way to beat back and derail Trump's war on workers.

Delegates seized the moment.

American members took out their phones right on the convention floor and called their members of Congress to demand passage of the bipartisan Protect America's Workforce Act. Canadian members took selfies while holding solidarity signs and posted the photos to social media.

SOLIDARITY ACROSS BORDERS: B.C. PREMIER CHAMPIONS WORKERS' RIGHTS

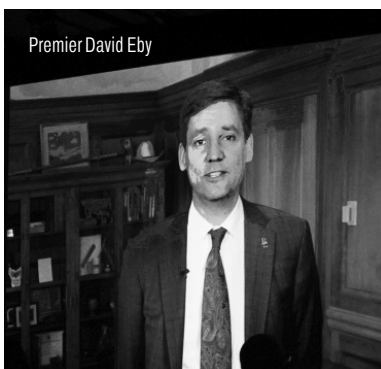
Premier David Eby of British Columbia used his video address to the USW convention to stress the long U.S.-Canada friendship and urge delegates to work together to build a brighter future for workers in both countries.

Eby emphasized the importance of solidarity, noting that worker power led to important milestones like the eight-hour workday and continues to empower workers during the most difficult times.

He stressed that tariffs hurt working families on both sides of the border, telling delegates, "We didn't ask for this trade war, but Canada must fight back."

Even so, he cited the many shared priorities of U.S. and Canadian workers and called the convention an opportunity to "improve the lives of your members."

The premier also proudly shared British Columbia's progress in workers' rights, including the hike in the minimum wage and increased support for unions.



Premier David Eby

DELEGATES REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO UNION'S FUTURE

Delegates to the convention on Wednesday reaffirmed the USW's commitment to empowering workers and building a bench for the labor movement by further investing in Next Generation, education and membership development, and civil and human rights.

Delegates passed a resolution to provide new and young members with additional leadership training, activism opportunities and a deeper role in the union, following up on a

vote earlier in the week to require a NextGen committee at every local.

In addition, delegates renewed the union's long-standing investment in the Education and Membership Development Department, pledging to expand both in-person and online learning to equip members with tools they need to lead and organize.

"The (Leadership-Scholarship) program brings to our locals an opportunity to train the leaders of tomorrow, bring that information back to our locals and mentor the young people coming into our workforce," said Bonnie



Reese, a delegate from Local 7687 in District 10.

The delegates' resolution on civil and human rights reaffirmed the union's opposition to discrimination and commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion across the union. It also opposed deportation based solely on immigration status and supported other social justice initiatives.

"If you have never attended a civil and human rights training, I highly advise you to do so because you will learn so much about yourself and others," said Steven Reed, a delegate from Local 10-00086, recalling how these kinds of opportunities helped him understand the challenges many of his union siblings overcome.



AFL-CIO PRESIDENT LIZ SHULER: THIS IS A GENERATIONAL MOMENT!

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler delivered a rousing call to action Wednesday, urging delegates to go "all in on solidarity" at what she called a generational turning point for the labor movement.

"Solidarity is not a word on a sign for this union," Shuler said. "Solidarity is lived out every single day. When they come for one of us, they come for all of us."

She praised the USW for standing with federal workers after recent actions threatened to strip collective bargaining rights from nearly 1 million union members.

"We're suing, and we are going to win," she said.

Citing recent labor actions like the "Hands Off!" rallies that took place this past



weekend across the United States, Shuler said workers are more united than ever.

"When I talk to steelworkers, nurses, bus drivers and hotel workers, I hear the opposite of division," she said. "Nobody is asking for more tax breaks for Elon Musk or Jeff Bezos at the expense of Medicare or Social Security."

With unions enjoying 71 percent approval — and 91 percent among workers under 30 — Shuler said the labor movement is gaining ground and inspiring younger generations.

She highlighted recent organizing wins, including manufacturing workers in Georgia, energy workers in Puerto Rico, and health care providers in Pittsburgh.

Shuler closed with a rallying cry.

"Every time we have been knocked down in history, we got back up FIGHTING," she said.

"If we do the work right now, we'll come out of this moment more powerful than we've ever been."

AFL-CIO

MEMBERS PLEDGE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR FAIR TRADE

Workers across the United States and Canada suffer from unfair trade practices and must work together to lead the fight for justice.

Delegates delivered that message Wednesday when they passed a resolution entitled "Fighting Together for Fair Trade."

Members spoke passionately from the floor about how unfair trade has affected jobs at their workplaces and how the USW leads the way in fighting back.

Speakers agreed that in the fight for fairness the focus must be trade cheaters, not trusted allies like Canada.

Delegate Tommy Daniel of Local 9-237 in Georgia said the only way forward is for all workers to stand together.

"It's time for us to quit all this talking and start doing the walking," he said.

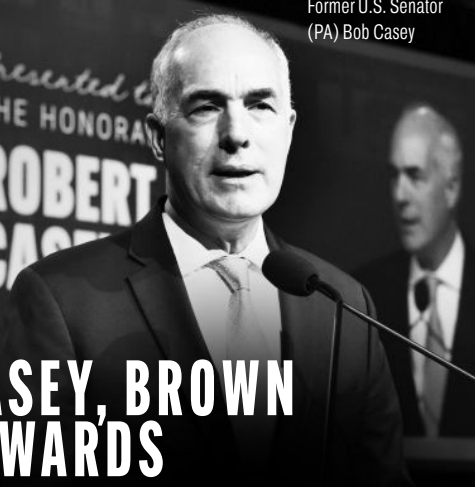
The USW has fought for decades against unfair imports, particularly from China, the resolution stated, and workers must step up the fight against practices like dumping, subsidization and abuse of workers to preserve good jobs across the union.

Members pledged to cooperate across borders in fighting to reform existing trade remedies, to educate members about the effects of unfair imports, to ensure trade agreements protect workers, and to advocate for support programs like Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Former U.S. Senator
(PA) Bob Casey



Presented to
THE HONORABLE
ROBERT
CASEY



USW HONORS CASEY, BROWN WITH CONWAY AWARDS

His voice cracking with emotion, International President David McCall on Wednesday presented the first Thomas M. Conway Lifetime Achievement Award to former U.S. Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania.

As Casey took the stage, a spotlight fell on an American flag behind the rostrum – one of the flags presented to Conway’s family by the honor guard detail at the memorial service that followed the late USW international president’s passing in 2023.

“I want to thank the Conway family,” Casey said, “for giving us Tom Conway.”

Casey shared the inaugural award with his fellow former U.S. senator, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, who, like Casey, joined the Senate in 2007 and served until January 2025.

Friends and colleagues for 18 years, the pair fought tirelessly for the most important issues facing USW members, including workers’ rights, affordable health care, fair trade, workplace safety and retirement security.

The USW International Executive Board voted to establish a tradition of presenting the Conway award to cham-

pions of labor at each USW convention.

Brown, in a video address, thanked USW members for their commitment to workers’ rights, calling attention to the small canary pin he has worn on his lapel each day for 25 years, a symbol of what once was one of the few pieces of safety equipment provided to mine workers.

“It symbolizes all that this union does, fighting for justice,” Brown said.

Brown is continuing that fight, he said, with the establishment of the national Dignity of Work Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to making sure the economy prioritizes workers.

In a personal address, Casey reminded delegates that his father, when he was Pennsylvania governor in 1992, dedicated a statue called “The Pennsylvania Worker,” that for 18 years stood outside the governor’s residence in Harrisburg.

The statue was meant to celebrate the workers who built the nation and who fought to make sure that the jobs they did came with good pay and benefits as well as dignity and justice.

“None of those things could have happened,” Casey said, “without the men and women of steel.”

USW/GERARD CHAIR HONORS WORKERS’ RIGHTS

Retired National Director for Canada Ken Neumann devoted his remarks Wednesday to celebrating the many achievements of former International President Leo W. Gerard, including a new honor Gerard received last year.

The University of Toronto’s Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources established the USW/Leo Gerard Chair last fall as a tribute to Gerard’s lifelong commitment to workers’ rights.

Universities typically establish chairs to recognize and promote key fields of study, Neumann said, and in this case, the chair will enhance research on workers’ rights, labor relations and collective bargaining.

“This chair is also a tribute to our union as a whole and to the leadership and the dedication that each and every one of you displays every day in the work of your local unions across Canada and the United States,” Neumann told delegates.

Gerard, who served as international president from 2001 to 2019, has also been named to the Order of Canada at its highest level, among other awards.



Ken Neumann,
Retired National Director for Canada



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