

CMA Weekly Update



CMA Weekly Update – April 16, 2021

As the U.S. vaccine rollout expands, many employers are figuring out how to encourage their workers to get vaccinated. The NAM and The Manufacturing Institute recently hosted a webinar, Employer COVID-19 Vaccine Communications: Do's and Don'ts, that addressed this concern. You can check out highlights from the webinar [here](#) and the full video [here](#).

Key Issues

Sustainable Public Health Supply Chain The NAM is advising the federal government on how it can better leverage manufacturers' strengths in future disaster responses. In recently submitted comments to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the Department of Health and Human Services, we recommended careful, strategic use of the Defense Production Act and expanded use of the DPA Voluntary Agreement, which the NAM is participating in; pushing back against foreign trade barriers; reforming the Strategic National Stockpile; and a renewed emphasis on public-private partnerships to strengthen our preparedness for future public health crises. You can view our submission [here](#).

Return to Work Considerations Now that 120 million Americans have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine and millions more are getting them every day, we know that many manufacturers are confronting complicated legal and employment questions, particularly around "return to work" policies for those who have been remote. For best practices and guidance on safely reintegrating employees into working on-site, you can attend an upcoming briefing by the Manufacturers' Center for Legal Action and the NAM Labor and Employment Policy Committee. Join us next Thursday, April 22, at 2:30 p.m. to discuss legal and employment issues tied to "return to work" scenarios, featuring insights from James Paretto, shareholder at Littler Mendelson P.C. You can click [here](#) to register, and if you would like to submit questions prior to the meeting, please contact NAM Vice President of Legal [Patrick Hedren](#) or NAM Director of Labor and Employment Policy [Drew Schneider](#).

Voicing Opposition on Paycheck Fairness Act The NAM [urged](#) the House of Representatives this week to oppose the Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7). In our message, we affirmed manufacturers' commitment to equal employment opportunity and equal pay for equal work, while outlining concerns that this legislation would do little to prevent or discourage unlawful discrimination. Instead,

some of the bill's provisions would prohibit legitimate and non-discriminatory human resource practices, create confusion in class actions by expanding them to plaintiffs that are not truly "similarly situated" and make it nearly impossible to assert valid and responsible defenses in litigation. The proposal now heads to the Senate after passing the House by a vote of 217-210.

Seeking Input on Recent EU Regulations The European Union recently announced two regulatory actions aimed at food and beverage manufacturers that may be of concern to your members. Last month media [reports](#) highlighted an unexpected shipping delay caused by previously unenforced EU rules on food imports and that "thousands of items sold in commissaries and exchange stores at U.S. military bases in Europe could soon be missing from shelves".

Similarly, a new set of rules from the EU requiring a new Private Attestation (i.e., self-declaration) on the importation of certain food products, including shelf stable composite products, will enter into force on April 21, 2021. Given the quickly approaching implementation date on these rules, members concerned with these developments are encouraged to contact NAM staff lead, [Graham Owens](#), as soon as possible.

Advocacy Opportunities

Take Action Against Proposed Tax Hikes We recently released [details](#) on how higher tax rates would impact jobs and the NAM continues to highlight these findings with a new [nationwide campaign](#). As part of our efforts, we've created a [tool](#) for you to share with your members to encourage them to weigh in with their Congressional delegate to oppose reversing the gains we've made through tax reform. Let us know if we can help provide you with additional resources to engage your members to oppose the proposed tax increases.

Last Chance to Sign On to Letter for Dreamers Click [here](#) to join CMA partners and a broad group of industry organizations in asking Congress to support a permanent path forward for the Dreamer population and participants in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program. **Sign-on deadline extended to April 23, 12:00pm EST.**

CMA Member Highlights

- Steve Caldeira, President and CEO of the **Household & Commercial Products Association** makes a compelling case for a national standard for ingredient disclosure in [Real Clear Policy](#) (4 min read).

The NAM provides this weekly update with key content for our association partners. This is also a platform to highlight work of our CMA partners. [Shoot us a](#)

[note](#) on any initiatives or messages that your organization has launched that we can share with others.