



IPSE-U.S. POLICY PLATFORM  
EMPOWERING THE FUTURE OF WORK  
***'For One, For All'***

For far too long, independent workers, across every profession, income level, industry, party, race, religion, gender, and geography, have lacked a unified voice to get Washington's attention. Independent workers, a workforce that's 68 million strong, should carry serious political clout, and drive meaningful change, however government policies consistently overlook or are biased against the independent workforce. That ends with **IPSE-U.S.**

We are dedicated to changing the world of work for America's 68 million independent workers and our policy initiatives are already advancing in Washington, DC and across the country. With the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress just beginning, it is important to keep in mind that nearly 20 percent of the Congress is new (93 House and nine Senate Freshman members); we believe this creates a positive trajectory for change and political advancement.

Though "gig worker" lawsuits make headline news, the federal government's time and attention is still focused almost exclusively on "jobs". Current labor policies were designed 75 years ago around traditional employment models and ignore nearly 40% of the modern workforce. To balance this equation, we propose an *Undersecretary of Independent Work at the Department of Labor*; a post focused solely on understanding and representing the unique interests of the self-employed.

Independent workers are subject to taxation without representation, even when they have chosen self-employment as a full-time career. The U.S. tax code is famously complex, and the self-employed face additional intricacies and burdens—accountants can't assure them whether a new tax act is a boon or bust for their solo businesses. They also face ongoing attempts and "tests" to re-classify them as W-2 employees. Independent workers should be free to work as they choose without undue tax burdens or fear of misclassification.

Access to benefits, medical and otherwise, especially group-rated benefits, is another significant inequality and obstacle that independent workers face. We're asking policymakers to remove roadblocks and amend current policy to allow innovative solutions to emerge in the free market, to deliver the protections that independent workers deserve. We believe the free market can reach faster, better solutions to affordable, portable health care and benefits for the self-employed.

Join the voice of IPSE-U.S. in advocating for independent workers! Here is a small sample of our advocacy efforts thus far-



## Progress

- Dr. Carl Camden began this movement while he was still the CEO of Kelly Services, and along with The Conference Board, in 2017 hosted the first policy conference for independent workers, *Advancing the Social Contract for Gig Economy Workers*.  
<http://www.gigeconomyvoice.com/from-the-forum/>
- July 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, iPSE-U.S. made the revolution public and created a powerful call to action with the Declaration of Independents, <https://youtu.be/458CfSa6c7A>
- In October 2018, iPSE-U.S. President Carl Camden sent a letter to U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Alex Acosta urging the Administration to establish a position within the federal government dedicated to representing the unique interests of the self-employed. The Department expressed interest in iPSE's proposal.
- iPSE-U.S. held initial conversations with Members of Congress interested in exploring the development of a position within the federal government dedicated to representing the unique interests of the self-employed
- Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas (MCRT), the lobbying group retained by iPSE-U.S., engaged with Department of Labor staff on multiple occasions to discuss the importance of creating this position within the federal government.
- With assistance from lobbying firm, Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas (MCRT), iPSE-U.S. completed over 15 bipartisan Congressional meetings in Washington, DC in November 2018. The response from lawmakers and staff during these meetings was overwhelmingly positive.
- Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas (MCRT) engaged with Department of Labor staff on multiple occasions to discuss the importance of recognizing and preventing misclassification issues within the tax code.
- iPSE-U.S. is also actively engaged in the California Dynamex Operations West versus Superior Court Case.
- Together with lobbying firm, Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas (MCRT), iPSE-U.S. completed over 15 bipartisan meetings in Washington, DC, all of which was met with a positive response.
- iPSE-U.S. also consulted directly with Representative Jim Himes (D-CT) on his legislative proposal for portable retirement accounts.
- Engaged notable health insurance companies regarding the development of a group-rated Association Healthcare Plan (AHP) for independent workers.
- Summer 2019 a broad-spectrum policy agenda will be released along with a corresponding action plan.