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The Honorable Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate Majority Whip, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Democratic National Convention
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Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

I've known Brian and Sandra for years. In fact, Sandra was my press secretary. You won't find a more courageous couple. Let's give them another hand.

Another thing this election is going to be about is jobs. Forget Donald Trump's wild claims. He lost millions of jobs. He promised to bring manufacturing back—and he failed. Promised to deliver infrastructure—and he failed. His record was defined by failure. To put it another way—he's like a bad boss.

Want time off to take care of your sick parents? Denied. In Donald Trump's America, there's no paid family leave. Want to have a child, but need IVF? Too bad. That's shut down too. Want a pay raise? Too bad. He just gave himself one, so there's nothing left for you. Donald Trump reminds us of a boss we've all had—the guy who thinks he's "a very stable genius," but is driving the company into the ground.

Now get this: Donald Trump did make history. Let's give him credit: he is one of only two presidents in American history to leave office with fewer people working than when he started. Now, he wants a chance to make America unemployed again!

On the other hand, let's look at the Biden-Harris record. They recovered all those millions of jobs that Trump watched slip away. And then they added over six million jobs on top of that—16 million jobs in total. Today, more roads are getting fixed, more factories are being built, more Americans are working construction, and more autoworkers are making cars than any month when Trump was president.

Behind every job, as we all know, is a person or a community forever changed. Data centers in Wisconsin. Semiconductors in Pennsylvania. Electric vehicles in Michigan. These investments mean strong Main Streets, growing public schools, and well-funded, well-staffed first responders. These investments mean hope.

That's what Kamala Harris and Tim Walz are fighting for. They'll fight for places too often left behind, fight to change lives and uplift communities, fight to bring back American manufacturing. My friend Ed Smith, a giant of the Illinois Laborers we lost this year, always reminded us: there is joy in this fight.

When we win, we help people buy their first home, send their kids to college, and retire with dignity. Incidentally, that's my story too. My mom and dad worked for the railroad, and because we were a strong union family, we were able, not just to get by, but to get ahead. That's the American economy Kamala Harris and Tim Walz are fighting for. Let's build it together!

Now, let's hear from some union workers on the ground in Arizona thanks to the Biden-Harris administration's investments in America.

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