



# ASSEMBLYMAN RALPH R. CAPUTO – 28<sup>th</sup> District

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **ASSEMBLYMAN RALPH CAPUTO CALLS FOR CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL ABUSE OF WORKERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

(Belleville, NJ) - Assemblyman Ralph Caputo of Nutley called on all relevant branches of state government to renew their efforts to stop the rampant and widespread illegal abuse of workers in the construction industry. Real estate developers across the state are breaking federal and state laws by misclassifying full-time workers as contractors, committing wage theft by paying below minimum wage, establishing illegal work weeks and paying cash – all to increase profits. Further, these wealthy corporations are robbing the state of tax revenue and creating an unequal business environment where illegality is the optimal business model.

Assemblyman Caputo urges the New Jersey Department of Labor, Attorney General's Office, Department of the Treasury and the Governor's Task Force on Misclassification to double-down on their efforts to attain Governor Murphy's goal of a fairer economy by ending what amounts to direct corporate welfare, with working men and women being abused and the taxpayers being cheated.

Shortly after taking office, Governor Murphy signed an executive order cracking down on the misclassification of workers. Even more recently, the Department of Labor has utilized new legislation to issue Stop Work Orders when workers' rights are being exploited and bring criminal enterprises to justice. Progress is being made, but we need increasingly aggressive action as the abuse of workers happens daily.

“The enforcement of existing laws would help create basic fairness and economic justice with a level playing field”, said Caputo, “so businesses operating within the law are able to compete and for all workers to be treated fairly and afforded the protections already granted to them in existing law.”

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