

## **NDA Submits Comments on FTC Non-Compete Clause Ban**

On Wednesday, NDA [submitted comments](#) to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in opposition to their proposed rule to ban non-compete clauses. Under the proposed rule, employers would be restricted from entering into non-compete clauses with workers and also be required to rescind any existing non-compete clauses. The proposed rule would also apply to independent contractors and anyone who works for an employer, whether paid or unpaid.

NDA has several concerns with the FTC's proposed rule including its impact on the ability of employers to protect sensitive business information, increased compliance costs for small businesses, and unprecedented executive overreach into private employment contracts. NDA will continue to track the FTC's rulemaking on non-compete clauses and keep members updated on the latest developments.

## **House Republicans Release Debt Ceiling Plan**

This week, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives [introduced legislation](#) to lift the U.S. debt ceiling. Congress must lift the debt ceiling by this summer to avoid the federal government defaulting on its debt obligations. The Republican plan would suspend the debt ceiling through either March 31, 2024 or provide for a \$1.5 trillion increase from the current \$31.4 trillion ceiling - whichever comes first. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) has estimated the bill would save \$4.5 trillion over a decade.

The proposed legislation would return total discretionary spending to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 level in FY 2024 and cap annual growth at 1% for the following ten years. To achieve budget savings, the bill would rescind unspent COVID-19 relief funds and repeal most of the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) energy and climate tax credit expansions. It would also prohibit President Biden's student debt cancellation, rescind the IRA's increased Internal Revenue Service (IRS) funding, and impose work requirements for several federal safety net programs. In addition, the bill would require Congress to approve any federal rule or regulation that has an estimated economic impact of \$100 million or more.

While President Biden and Democratic leaders have come out in opposition to the plan, it marks the first major step by Congress in negotiations to lift the debt ceiling. Any final agreement will need the bipartisan support of Republicans in the House and Democrats in the Senate. NDA is closely monitoring negotiations and will keep members updated on the latest information.

## **EPA Proposes Rule to Ban Methylene Chloride**

On Thursday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a [proposed rule](#) to ban most consumer and industrial uses of methylene chloride under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The EPA's proposed rule would rapidly phase down manufacturing, processing and distribution of methylene chloride for all consumer uses and most industrial and commercial uses, most of which would be fully implemented in 15 months.