

M3 Hypothesis Annotation: Types of Media Bias

There are two articles to read about the topic of a 32-hour workweek. What are the blue underlined words? These are links that the publisher includes to take you to other sources of information related to the topic. You do not need to follow these links, but you may note how many links and what type of links are included in each article. This document includes the original photos from each article. Under each photo is a caption describing the photo.

Article 1 (left leaning)

Title: “Bernie Sanders Is Calling for a 32-Hour Workweek”

American workers spend way more time on the clock than their counterparts in other rich countries. A new bill from Bernie Sanders seeks to change that, by shrinking the workweek to 32 hours with no loss in pay.



Photo: Senator Bernie Sanders questions witnesses during a hearing about working hours in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill on March 14, 2024 in Washington, DC. (Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

Many people hate their jobs. Some don't. But almost everyone would like to work less. And over the past several decades, American workers have [worked longer hours overall as their wages have stagnated](#). As if that weren't enough, they have also seen their declining amount of free time disrupted by increasingly erratic schedules. It's a dismal situation. Strange, then, that politicians almost never speak to this widespread desire.

But yesterday, Vermont senator Bernie Sanders announced that he would introduce Senate legislation to establish a standard [thirty-two-hour workweek](#), with no loss in pay, across the United States. Sanders's Thirty-Two Hour Workweek Act is being cosponsored by Democratic California senator Laphonza Butler in the Senate, and Representative Mark Takano, also a California Democrat, has introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

Experiments with a shorter week are [now being pursued in several European countries](#). In Germany last month, forty-five companies began a six-month pilot of a four-day workweek; Germany currently has an average workweek of 34.2 hours. (One of the organizations supporting the pilot, 4 Day Week Global, has also endorsed Sanders's bill.) A similar test run is currently underway in Portugal, and one concluded in the UK at the end of 2022.

France legally mandated [a thirty-five hour workweek](#) in 2000. But some companies there are now experimenting with a thirty-two-hour week as well. (Others are simply allowing workers to squeeze

a thirty-five-hour week [into four weekdays](#).) Senator Sanders's bill raises the obvious question: Why can't the United States, the wealthiest nation in human history, do the same?

Even setting recent shorter-week experiments aside, the United States is an outlier among rich countries in terms of how many hours we spend working. According to the press release from Sanders's office announcing the bill, full-time US workers now spend an average of forty-two hours on the clock per week (though that figure may not account for people working multiple jobs). Looking at annual average hours per work, the United States [comes in well above the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\) average](#). At 1,815 hours, the average US worker is clocking almost five hundred hours more per year than the average German worker and about three hundred more than the average worker in France or the UK.

Labor sociologist [Jamie McCallum points out](#) that this has particularly harmed low-wage workers in the United States because of stagnant wages. Poor workers are working long hours because they are trying to make up for the economic ground they've lost in recent years — and have lost control of their lives in the process.

Sanders's legislation has been endorsed by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and a number of major national unions, including the United Auto Workers (UAW) — who also championed the demand for a thirty-two-hour workweek [in their recent strike](#) against the Big Three automakers. Today, UAW president Shawn Fain spoke at a hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which Sanders chairs, in support of the legislation.

The proposal stands in stark contrast to recent rhetoric on the Right about work and retirement. Ben Shapiro, for example, recently argued, "Let's be real about this: it's totally insane that we haven't raised the retirement age in the United States. It's totally crazy. . . . No one in the United States should be retiring at sixty-five years old. Frankly, I think retirement itself is a stupid idea, unless you have some kind of health problem."

It makes for a stark contrast: Ben Shapiro believes Americans should work until they drop dead, and Bernie Sanders believes Americans deserve more time off.

Sanders's proposal is of a piece with the bold, popular social democratic demands that he championed in his two presidential campaigns. Though the bill will almost certainly face fierce opposition from moderates and conservatives in Congress and corporate interests beyond Capitol Hill, hopefully it can serve as an inspiration to a Democratic Party that is struggling to find a winning message — and a demand for the rising insurgent wing of the US labor movement to champion more broadly. After all, nobody wants to give their one precious life over to their job.

Author: Nick French

Publication: *Jacobin*

Publication date: not shown on web page

URL: <https://jacobin.com/2024/03/bernie-sanders-thirty-two-hour-workweek>

Article 2 (right leaning)

Title: “Bernie Sanders Champions Bill to Create 32-hour Workweek Without Pay Loss”

Get ready for a long weekend at Bernie’s!

[Sen. Bernie Sanders](#) (I-Vt.) wants Americans to follow in the footsteps of some lawmakers in Congress and cut back on their working hours while getting the same pay.

The self-described “Democratic socialist” passionately advocated for a 32-hour workweek as the national standard while chairing a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing Thursday.

“American workers are now over 400% more productive than they were in the 1940s,” noted Sanders, 82.



4

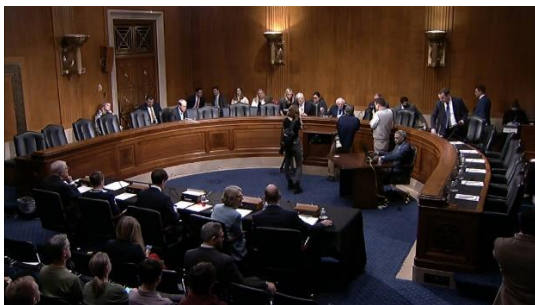
Photo: Bernie Sanders is renewing efforts to push the US into a 32-hour workweek. Twitter/SenSanders

“Almost all of the economic gains of that technological transformation have gone straight to the top, while wages for workers have remained stagnant or even worse.”

Sanders unveiled the [“Thirty-Two Hour Work Week Act”](#) Wednesday, and insisted it was “not a radical idea.”

“The financial gains from the major advancements in artificial intelligence, automation, and new technology must benefit the working class, not just corporate CEOs and wealthy stockholders on Wall Street,” he said in a statement. “It is time to reduce the stress level in our country and allow Americans to enjoy a better quality of life. It is time for a 32-hour workweek with no loss in pay.”

The bill would pare the length of the standard working week over the course of four years, while [reducing the threshold](#) for overtime compensation at time and a half to workdays that last longer than eight hours and double pay for shifts of more than 12 hours.



4

Photo: The Senate HELP Committee held a hearing on Bernie Sanders’ 32-hour workweek legislation. Twitter/SenSanders

Back in 1938, then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act, which established the right to receive a minimum wage and time-and-a-half overtime pay for those working more than 40 hours per week.

A [2019 Gallup survey](#) found that over half of adults in the US reported working over 40 hours a week for full-time jobs.

Sanders cited France, which has a 35-hour workweek and has debated lowering it to 32, as a model for how nations can cultivate a culture in which their citizens work less.



4

Photo: Bernie Sanders is widely regarded as the most progressive member of the Senate. Getty Images

Conservative critics mocked the idea, [with one calling the legislation](#) “the policy equivalent of the kid who ran for class president in elementary school promising he would abolish homework and make every day ice cream Friday.”

“In a world where it’s easier than ever to hire overseas talent,” [another opponent said](#), “this is insane and directly hurts the people he’s trying to help.”

“Forcing businesses to pay for less productivity doesn’t lead to better outcomes for workers. It results in higher inflation, reliance on automation, and less jobs,” [still another said](#). “Since Bernie has taken a salary from taxpayers for 40 years, he would know nothing about this.”



4

Photo: Sen. Bill Cassidy warned that such a policy would have negative consequences. Twitter/SenSanders

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), the ranking member of the HELP Committee, tore into the plan.

“A 32-hour workweek for 40 hours of pay is one more example of the federal government promising free money. Nothing is free. It would kill jobs and increase inflation,” [he said](#).

Despite skepticism, polls have pegged interest among voters in establishing a national four-day week, and some states such as Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have explored the idea as well.

Author: Ryan King

Publication: *New York Post*

Date: March 14, 2024

URL: <https://nypost.com/2024/03/14/us-news/bernie-sanders-champions-bill-to-create-four-day-work-week-without-pay-loss/>