Illinois workers filed 172 representation cases with the National Labor Relations Board in FY22, an increase of 61% compared to the previous fiscal year. Illinois workers filed 1061 unfair labor practice charges against employers, an increase of 32% compared to the previous fiscal year. Among all states and territories, workers in Illinois ranked 17th in representation cases and 53rd in unfair labor practice charges at the NLRB.

Unfair labor practices (ULP) include, but are not limited to, firing employees for organizing a union, retaliating against workers for supporting a union, or refusing to bargain with an established union.

Representation cases are petitions for the NLRB to conduct an election in which employees vote on whether to unionize and bargain collectively with their employer. Employees, employers, and unions may file these petitions.
States/Territories Ranked by Increase in NLRB Representation Cases between FY21 and FY22 (%)

Source: Analysis of FY2020 (October 2020 - September 2021) and FY2021 (October 2021 - September 2022) NLRB representation and unfair labor practice cases from https://www.nlrb.gov/search/case.