



March 11, 2020

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With every day that passes, it is increasingly clear that the current coronavirus outbreak represents an unparalleled challenge to our nation. Across every corner of the country, we are witnessing a virus that not only threatens our health, but also our way of life and work. Given the nature of this threat, we must act now to protect the health and economic well-being of all workers.

Our union, for example, represents 1.3 million workers across the public and private sectors. Our members work tirelessly to support their families and improve our communities. They help manufacture and serve our food, teach our children, take care of the sick and elderly, and do countless numbers of other jobs that enable our society to function. While some of our hard-working members are salaried workers who may be able to weather a temporary work stoppage, many are not. These hourly workers—union and nonunion—are paid based on the number of hours they work, and when those hours decline at no fault of their own, the consequences are financially devastating.

Today, nearly 80 million American workers—or 59 percent of the entire U.S. workforce—are hourly employees who only get paid for the hours they work. As the financial impact of the coronavirus is felt across every community, these hard-working men and women are on the front lines. Unlike salaried workers, they cannot simply choose to limit their public interactions, stop or reduce their travel, or even telework entirely from home. The truth is—most of these hourly workers will never have this option.

Respectfully, I am urging each of our nation's elected leaders to develop immediate policies that ensure that workers—salaried and hourly—do not have to choose between work and their health. These policies should not only protect workers against financial loss (from loss of hours or job loss) but should further ensure that workers seek out immediate medical attention if they feel sick or believe they have been exposed to the coronavirus.

Among the policies we strongly encourage our elected leaders to consider as part of any package to address the economic impact of the coronavirus include:

- At least two weeks of paid sick leave for all workers;

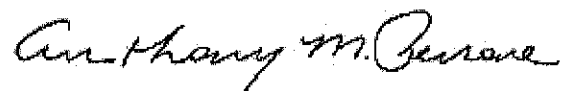
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- Extension of unemployment benefits for workers temporarily laid off or whose work hours have been disrupted;
- Payroll tax cuts for all lower- and middle-income workers; and
- Protection against unfair termination or discrimination for those suspected of being exposed to the coronavirus.

Finally, I know that discussion of significant policy actions quite often devolves into partisan bickering and politicking. I understand that such is the nature of politics when times are normal. However, these are not normal times. As difficult as it may be to bridge the policy and political divide that sadly defines this nation, now is the time that we must come and act together. This virus does not care about politics, or whether you identify as a Republican or Democrat.

Now, more than ever, it is time that we all focus on what matters most—protecting our families, our communities, and this nation. The UFCW stands ready to help in every way we can, and we urge you to do the same for our members and all workers.

Most respectfully,



International President

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Chuck Schumer
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

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Most respectfully,

/s/ Anthony M. Perrone

International President

cc: The President ✓
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Chuck Schumer
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer:

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Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

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