

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

May 31, 2022

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

Following the tragic and senseless shooting at a Tops Friendly Markets grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y., the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which represents 1.3 million workers in grocery stores, pharmacies and other essential industries across America, is calling for America's Congressional leaders to take immediate action to protect these workers from the rising threats of workplace violence, as well as to better understand how to prevent such acts of senseless violence in the future.

It is no longer a question about whether grocery workers face risks on the job. The tragic reality is that they face multiple threats at the workplace every single day.

During the pandemic, these hard-working men and women literally put their lives on the line to make sure that families have the food and supplies needed. Sadly, these same frontline workers also face increasing exposure to workplace violence as mass shootings at grocery stores have become more and more common in the United States. Grocery workers also regularly face harassment and threats from customers who refuse to follow COVID-19 safety protocols.

While our union has worked hard to protect our members against acts of hate and violence, including creating new workplace safety contract language; establishing workplace safety and health committees at stores; and holding safety and health trainings; it is clear we need leadership from our elected officials before more lives are lost. We are asking Congress to take the following actions:

- **Pass the STOP Violence Act:** The STOP Violence Act would make grocery stores eligible for the same federal funding provided to other workplaces that are regularly exposed to mass violence in the workplace.

- 2 -

We are calling for this important legislation to be brought to the floor for a vote and urge all elected leaders to vote "Yes."

- **Congressional Hearing on Gun Violence in Grocery Stores:** We also urge leadership to convene an emergency congressional hearing where the workers and customers who have faced workplace threats and this type of gun violence can testify about their experiences. In addition, CEOs of major food retailers should be included to testify about the actions they are taking - or are open to taking - to protect America's union and non-union food workers.

I realize that a discussion about any type of policy action relating to gun violence usually leads to partisan bickering and, therefore, not much getting done. This can no longer be the case. Grocery store workers have already sacrificed too much over these past two years to keep this country safe and America's families fed. Now, more than ever, we must do everything we can to make these workplaces safe, which starts with taking actions that will help to prevent and deter acts of violence at America's grocery stores.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



International President