



Thomas M. Conway
International President

April 27, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: United Steelworkers support H.R. 6559, the COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act of 2020

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers, **we strongly urge you to support and cosponsor H.R. 6559, the COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act of 2020.**

Our union was founded on a principle of a safe workplace, and the United States has an obligation to protect all workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis. Workers in a wide range of professions, from healthcare to manufacturing, are taking significant risk to their own health and safety to provide the care, support, supplies, and necessities needed to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. While these workers provide essential services needed to survive this public health emergency, many put themselves at unnecessary risk because of a lack of federal oversight and enforcement. Facing illness and even death from on-the-job exposure to COVID-19, our members and the country's essential workers are in dire need of protection from potential infections in the workplace. They need an enforceable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard to protect their health and ensure that employers provide adequate safety measures against the virus.

In order to protect all essential workers on the job the COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act of 2020, introduced by Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), requires OSHA to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) that would require employers to develop and implement a plan to protect all frontline workers from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. The bill requires the enforceable standard to be issued within 7 days and prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who report issues or use their own PPE when their employer fails to provide it.

It is essential that Congress ensures all essential workers are protected during this national pandemic. The COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act of 2020

would require OSHA to take the emergency action necessary to protect our nation's vital workforce, and we urge Congress to pass or include this legislation in the next COVID-19 related package.

Sincerely,


Thomas Conway
International President