

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
The Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of the Governor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

I am writing today on behalf of our over 10,000 members in Virginia who have been working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in grocery, food processing and manufacturing, chemical production, and health care. Our members have been risking their lives every day for a year now to keep food on the table and protect the health and safety of their fellow Virginians.

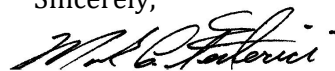
Now that the American Rescue Plan Act has been passed and signed into law you have the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these working families are continuing to make to keep Virginia running. Federal grant money will be coming that can be allocated for hazard or hero pay for essential, front line employees. **We call on you to allocate that money as soon as possible as direct payments to grocery, food processing and manufacturing, chemical production, health care, and other workers who have never been given the option to stay home** and instead sacrificed the health and safety of themselves and their families so that others had the opportunity be safe, healthy, and fed.

At the beginning of this pandemic many of our members were called heroes and essential workers. We knew that was true before this pandemic, and it will continue to be true when it finally is over. Unfortunately, they have not been treated like heroes. The additional pay some received for continuing to come to work early in the pandemic was taken away months ago. Our members have gone from "essential" and "heroes" to being made sacrificial. Just among our members in Virginia, 1361 have gotten sick and 5 have died.

Now is the time to recognize them for what they continue to go through every day as they wait their turn to be vaccinated. The money is there, coming as a direct payment from the federal government. There is no additional burden on Virginia taxpayers or businesses for you to act. We expect you to do the right thing and give our members at least some of the compensation they have earned over the last year.

I will make myself available any time to meet with you or any members of your staff to discuss details on how to get these payments out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Federici  
President and International  
Vice President

MPF/lla

**Sent VIA First Class Mail and Email: [clark.mercer@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:clark.mercer@governor.virginia.gov)**

March 17, 2021

Governor Andy Beshear  
Governor of Kentucky  
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100  
Frankfort, Kentucky 4060

Dear Governor Beshear:

I am writing today on behalf of our over 200 members in Kentucky who have been working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in the grocery industry. Our members have been risking their lives every day for a year now to keep food on the table for their fellow Kentuckians.

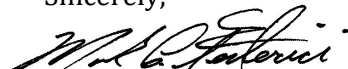
Now that the American Rescue Plan Act has been passed and signed into law you have the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these working families are continuing to make to keep Kentucky running. Federal grant money will be coming that can be allocated for hazard or hero pay for essential, front line employees. **We call on you to allocate that money as soon as possible as direct payments to grocery and other workers who have never been given the option to stay home** and instead sacrificed the health and safety of themselves and their families so that others had the opportunity be safe, healthy, and fed.

At the beginning of this pandemic many of our members were called heroes and essential workers. We knew that was true before this pandemic, and it will continue to be true when it finally is over. Unfortunately, they have not been treated like heroes. The additional pay some received for continuing to come to work early in the pandemic was taken away months ago. Our members have gone from "essential" and "heroes" to being made sacrificial. Just among our members in Kentucky, 28 have gotten sick.

Now is the time to recognize them for what they continue to go through every day as they wait their turn to be vaccinated. The money is there, coming as a direct payment from the federal government. There is no additional burden on Kentucky taxpayers or businesses for you to act. We expect you to do the right thing and give our members at least some of the compensation they have earned over the last year.

I will make myself available any time to meet with you or any members of your staff to discuss details on how to get these payments out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Federici  
President and International  
Vice President

MPF/lla

**Sent VIA First Class and Email: gov@ky.gov**

March 17, 2021

Muriel Bowser, Mayor  
Government of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

I am writing today on behalf of our over 5000 members in the District of Columbia who have been working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in the grocery, retail, food processing, and health care. Our members have been risking their lives every day for a year now to keep food on the table for their fellow District residents.

Now that the American Rescue Plan Act has been passed and signed into law you have the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these working families are continuing to make to keep the District running. Federal grant money will be coming that can be allocated for hazard or hero pay for essential, front line employees. **We call on you to allocate that money as soon as possible as direct payments to grocery, retail, food processing, health care, and other workers who have never been given the option to stay home** and instead sacrificed the health and safety of themselves and their families so that others had the opportunity be safe, healthy, and fed.

At the beginning of this pandemic many of our members were called heroes and essential workers. We knew that was true before this pandemic, and it will continue to be true when it finally is over. Unfortunately, they have not been treated like heroes. The additional pay some received for continuing to come to work early in the pandemic was taken away months ago. Our members have gone from "essential" and "heroes" to being made sacrificial. Just among our members in the District, 155 have gotten sick and one has died.

Now is the time to recognize them for what they continue to go through every day as they wait their turn to be vaccinated. The money is there, coming as a direct payment from the federal government. There is no additional burden on District taxpayers or businesses for you to act. We expect you to do the right thing and give our members at least some of the compensation they have earned over the last year.

I will make myself available any time to meet with you or any members of your staff to discuss details on how to get these payments out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Federici  
President and International  
Vice President

MPF/lla

**Sent VIA First Class Mail and Email: [john.falcicchio@dc.gov](mailto:john.falcicchio@dc.gov)**



# United Food & Commercial Workers Union

A voice for working people in Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky & Tennessee

March 17, 2021

Governor Mike DeWine  
Governor of Ohio  
Riffe Center, 30th Floor  
77 South High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-6117

Dear Governor DeWine:

I am writing today on behalf of our over 500 members in Ohio who have been working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in grocery, distribution, and law enforcement. Our members have been risking their lives every day for a year now to keep food on the table and protect the health and safety of their fellow Ohioans.

Now that the American Rescue Plan Act has been passed and signed into law you have the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these working families are continuing to make to keep Ohio running. Federal grant money will be coming that can be allocated for hazard or hero pay for essential, front line employees. **We call on you to allocate that money as soon as possible as direct payments to grocery, distribution, law enforcement, and other workers who have never been given the option to stay home** and instead sacrificed the health and safety of themselves and their families so that others had the opportunity be safe, healthy, and fed.

At the beginning of this pandemic many of our members were called heroes and essential workers. We knew that was true before this pandemic, and it will continue to be true when it finally is over. Unfortunately, they have not been treated like heroes. The additional pay some received for continuing to come to work early in the pandemic was taken away months ago. Our members have gone from "essential" and "heroes" to being made sacrificial. Just among our members in Ohio, 34 have gotten sick.

Now is the time to recognize them for what they continue to go through every day as they wait their turn to be vaccinated. The money is there, coming as a direct payment from the federal government. There is no additional burden on Ohio taxpayers or businesses for you to act. We expect you to do the right thing and give our members at least some of the compensation they have earned over the last year.

I will make myself available any time to meet with you or any members of your staff to discuss details on how to get these payments out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Federici  
President and International  
Vice President

MPF/lla

**Sent VIA First Class Mail and Email: [joe.batchelor@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:joe.batchelor@governor.ohio.gov)**



March 17, 2021

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.  
Maryland Office of the Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

I am writing today on behalf of our over 10,000 members in Maryland who have been working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in grocery, retail, food distribution, law enforcement, and health care. Our members have been risking their lives every day for a year now to keep food on the table and protect the health and safety of their fellow Marylanders.

Now that the American Rescue Plan Act has been passed and signed into law you have the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these working families are continuing to make to keep Maryland running. Federal grant money will be coming that can be allocated for hazard or hero pay for essential, front line employees. **We call on you to allocate that money as soon as possible as direct payments to grocery, retail, food distribution, law enforcement, health care, and other workers who have never been given the option to stay home** and instead sacrificed the health and safety of themselves and their families so that others had the opportunity be safe, healthy, and fed.

At the beginning of this pandemic many of our members were called heroes and essential workers. We knew that was true before this pandemic, and it will continue to be true when it finally is over. Unfortunately, they have not been treated like heroes. The additional pay some received for continuing to come to work early in the pandemic was taken away months ago. Our members have gone from "essential" and "heroes" to being made sacrificial. Just among our members in Maryland, 647 have gotten sick and 3 have died.

Now is the time to recognize them for what they continue to go through every day as they wait their turn to be vaccinated. The money is there, coming as a direct payment from the federal government. There is no additional burden on Maryland taxpayers or businesses for you to act. We expect you to do the right thing and give our members at least some of the compensation they have earned over the last year.

I will make myself available any time to meet with you or any members of your staff to discuss details on how to get these payments out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Federici  
President and International  
Vice President

MPF/lla

**Sent VIA First Class Mail and Email: [amelia.alcivar@maryland.gov](mailto:amelia.alcivar@maryland.gov)**

March 17, 2021

The Honorable James C. Justice, II  
Governor of West Virginia  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice:

I am writing today on behalf of our over 5,000 members in West Virginia who have been working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in grocery, chemical production, lumber, and health care. Our members have been risking their lives every day for a year now to keep food on the table and protect the health and safety of their fellow West Virginians.

Now that the American Rescue Plan Act has been passed and signed into law you have the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these working families are continuing to make to keep West Virginia running. Federal grant money will be coming that can be allocated for hazard or hero pay for essential, front line employees. **We call on you to allocate that money as soon as possible as direct payments to grocery, chemical production, lumber, health care, and other workers who have never been given the option to stay home** and instead sacrificed the health and safety of themselves and their families so that others had the opportunity be safe, healthy, and fed.

At the beginning of this pandemic many of our members were called heroes and essential workers. We knew that was true before this pandemic, and it will continue to be true when it finally is over. Unfortunately, they have not been treated like heroes. The additional pay some received for continuing to come to work early in the pandemic was taken away months ago. Our members have gone from "essential" and "heroes" to being made sacrificial. Just among our members in West Virginia, 310 have gotten sick and 1 has died.

Now is the time to recognize them for what they continue to go through every day as they wait their turn to be vaccinated. The money is there, coming as a direct payment from the federal government. There is no additional burden on West Virginia taxpayers or businesses for you to act. We expect you to do the right thing and give our members at least some of the compensation they have earned over the last year.

I will make myself available any time to meet with you or any members of your staff to discuss details on how to get these payments out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Federici  
President and International  
Vice President

MPF/lla

Sent VIA First Class Mail and Email to: [Brian.R.Abraham@wv.gov](mailto:Brian.R.Abraham@wv.gov)

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Bill Lee  
The Governor of Tennessee  
State Capitol, 1st Floor  
600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee:

I am writing today on behalf of our over 300 members in Tennessee who have been working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in the grocery industry. Our members have been risking their lives every day for a year now to keep food on the table for their fellow Tennesseans.

Now that the American Rescue Plan Act has been passed and signed into law you have the opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these working families are continuing to make to keep Tennessee running. Federal grant money will be coming that can be allocated for hazard or hero pay for essential, front line employees. **We call on you to allocate that money as soon as possible as direct payments to grocery and other workers who have never been given the option to stay home** and instead sacrificed the health and safety of themselves and their families so that others had the opportunity be safe, healthy, and fed.

At the beginning of this pandemic many of our members were called heroes and essential workers. We knew that was true before this pandemic, and it will continue to be true when it finally is over. Unfortunately, they have not been treated like heroes. The additional pay some received for continuing to come to work early in the pandemic was taken away months ago. Our members have gone from "essential" and "heroes" to being made sacrificial. Just among our members in Tennessee, 27 have gotten sick.

Now is the time to recognize them for what they continue to go through every day as they wait their turn to be vaccinated. The money is there, coming as a direct payment from the federal government. There is no additional burden on Tennessee taxpayers or businesses for you to act. We expect you to do the right thing and give our members at least some of the compensation they have earned over the last year.

I will make myself available any time to meet with you or any members of your staff to discuss details on how to get these payments out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Thank you and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mark P. Federici  
President and International  
Vice President

MPF/lla

**Sent Via First Class Mail and Email: [blake.harris@tn.gov](mailto:blake.harris@tn.gov)**