



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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December 21, 2020

Dear Local Presidents,

After months of lobbying by the TWU, today Congressional leaders announced a new stimulus bill to fight the economic fallout from the ongoing pandemic. The agreement, known as the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* will be passed by Congress and signed in the coming days. TWU International worked hard to make sure this bill includes our priorities, and we are proud to say that the final product is pro-worker at every level. **Every TWU Local will benefit from this legislation which will return furloughed workers to their jobs and avoid further furloughs/layoffs through the Spring. These conditions apply solely to companies who accept federal aid.**

For the Air Division, we were able to secure many essential victories, including:

- **\$15b in grants for airline workers and \$1b for airline ground contractor workers** through the Payroll Support Program (PSP)
 - **All money must be spent on frontline workforce** (wages, salaries, and benefits)
- **Workers furloughed since September 30 must be recalled** to work with back pay from December 1 onwards
- **No involuntary furloughs or reductions in pay rates or benefits** through March 31, 2021
- No conditions may be placed on these funds that would undermine the collective bargaining process
- Limits on executive compensation

For the worst-case scenario, where companies do furlough/layoff our members, we were also able to extend the emergency unemployment insurance (UI) program as part of this legislation. These benefits will now last through the end of March 2021 and include:

- **Waiving all waiting-periods to qualify** for UI (workers will be eligible immediately after they are forced to stop working).

- Waiving most eligibility requirements to allow workers who might not normally qualify for the UI to receive these benefits (this includes workers who may have previously exhausted their UI benefits)
- **An additional \$300/week** in federal benefits on top of state-based aid. This federal benefit will be available regardless of whether the state provides individuals any benefit.
- Requirements that all states allow workers to apply for UI benefits online.

It has been our goal throughout this process to ensure that as few TWU members as possible are forced to resort to UI. For those that must, however, we hope these benefits will ensure that all workers continue to be able to support their families throughout this crisis.

In addition to the COVID relief, the legislation also includes major reforms to the FAA's aircraft certification process. These changes, endorsed by TWU, will return the FAA to its traditional role of overseer and regulator of the certification process, rather than allowing companies to self-certify their compliance with safety laws.

Please reach out to your International Representative if you have any questions about this legislation. We appreciate your work to keep all of your members healthy and safe as we work our way through this pandemic.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Mayes".

Mike Mayes
TWU International Administrative Vice President
Air Division Director

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