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TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

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September 21, 2016

Sisters and Brothers,

On June 20, 2016 American Airlines notified its workforce that its airport medical facilities and staff would be outsourced to a third party vendor by the name of Premise Health. Our JFK and LGA stations, (SJU has not been included at this time,) will soon see the taking over of the medical facilities in these respective New York locations. While Premise Health is being touted as a “convenient medical service” to our Members, the Executive Board of TWU Local 501 is very concerned about the arrival of another on-site medical provider that also offers “convenient” ON-THE-JOB injury treatment. New York State Workers Compensation laws, while sometimes complicated to understand, are also very clear in that when injured at work you have the legal **RIGHT** to use any authorized Workers Compensation Doctor of your choice. And while Premise Health at our airports may offer beneficial wellness needs for minor issues like sore throats and flu shots that will accept AA’s medical insurance, the Executive Board of TWU Local 501 sees no immediate benefit to Premise Health’s offering “convenient” access to care for injuries sustained while at work that are not covered by your personal medical insurance. So complex are the New York laws that if you are initially misdiagnosed your rights to future care for that injury **MAY** be severely impacted if treated by another physician that does not agree with the first diagnoses.

With this said, TWU Local 501, strongly encourages you to continue to choose the medical professional or hospital emergency room of YOUR choice when injured at work. If at any time you are being told by anyone that you must go to a particular medical facility after sustaining an on-the-job injury, (on the airport or not,) contact a Union Rep immediately. We also have a list of highly skilled Workers Compensation attorneys with whom you may initially consult with free of charge to better help you through the worker compensation process. Please understand that while in New York we may have some of the strongest Workers Comp protections in the country, it is always best to consult with those who are professionals in this field and can best explain your injured worker rights. As always please try your best to avoid injury at work but also remain educated to your responsibilities and rights should you get injured while working.

In Solidarity,

Executive Vice President