

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chair, Finance Committee
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Finance Committee
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chair, Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee
The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member
Wyden, Chairman Alexander, and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the working men and women and their families across the country, we urge swift
Senate passage of the HEROES Act.

This bold legislation is what is needed now to protect Americans' health and restore our
economy. It gives critical aid to our core institutions, including state and local governments,
public schools and the U.S. Postal Service, and supports essential health coverage for laid-off
workers grappling with the pandemic. It helps employers keep workers on payroll, extends
enhanced unemployment benefits for those who are out of work through no fault of their own,
offers additional food assistance and includes more direct payments to working people, and it
provides relief for renters and homeowners.

The labor movement's unanimous view is that a major achievement of the HEROES Act is the
support it provides for private pension plans. Division D of the Act, the Emergency Pension Plan
Relief Act of 2020 ("EPPRA"), creates a special multiemployer pension plan partition
program. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC") would relieve certain severely
overburdened multiemployer plans of the benefit liabilities that block their paths to financial
survival. EPPRA would also temporarily ease the funding rules to help fundamentally healthy
multiemployer and single employer pension plans cope with the immediate economic crisis
resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and then maintain their financial stability. Most
important, this legislation achieves its critical goals without jeopardizing the stability of the
multiemployer pension system overall by saddling the plans with unsustainable funding
requirements and PBGC premiums.

We do have concerns, however, about a second set of multiemployer plan provisions included in
the HEROES Act. Within the labor movement we do not share the same sense of unanimity
regarding Division N, the Giving Retirement Options to Workers ("GROW") Act. Since there is
a lack of consensus in the multiemployer community regarding the inclusion of the GROW Act
in this legislation, we ask that Division N, the GROW Act, be dropped from the HEROES Act
and we urge swift passage.

For all the reasons we detail above, enactment of the HEROES Act is of the highest importance. The fundamental drive to protect working families from the severe health and economic threats now confronting our nation must continue unimpeded.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Castillo, NNU
Thomas M. Conway, USW
Kenneth Cooper, IBEW
Lily Eskelsen García, NEA
Rory L. Gamble, UAW
Mary Kay Henry, SEIU
James Hoffa, IBT
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Richard Lanigan, OPEIU
Matthew Loeb, IATSE
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Marc Perrone, UFCW
Kenneth Rigmaiden, IUPAT
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