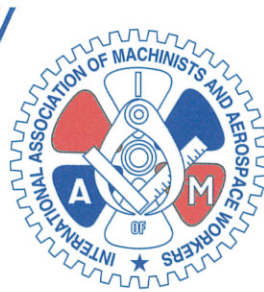


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 30, 2020

Dear Representative,

On behalf of 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), I applaud your commitment to including many provisions in the recently introduced, revised HEROES Act recovery package which will greatly help IAM members and workers nationwide through this difficult time. **I write to strongly urge you to swiftly pass this desperately needed relief package to help our nation and its workers emerge from this unprecedented economic and public health emergency.**

Working families across the nation are feeling the brunt of the pain and uncertainty that the COVID-19 pandemic has thrust onto all of our lives. The Machinists Union strongly agrees that a comprehensive package in response to this public health and economic crisis is vitally needed. The HEROES Act contains many provisions that will provide a lifeline to our nation's workers at a time when they need it most. We applaud lawmakers for including a wide array of provisions to assist these struggling working families through these dire economic times.

The HEROES response package contains a number of key recovery provisions that the Machinists Union has been advocating for since the outbreak of the deadly virus. As the largest airline workers union in the world, we are relieved to find that the package rightly contains a much-needed extension of the Airline Payroll Support Program (PSP). A swift extension of the PSP program is absolutely necessary to avoid mass layoffs in the air travel industry. On September 30, 2020, the PSP's prohibition on furloughing airline employees is set to expire. Without an immediate extension of the PSP, mass layoff of airline workers will become inevitable starting on October 1st. The loss of tens of thousands of airline workers would of course be disastrous to these workers, their families and communities where they live, but it would also be overwhelmingly destructive to the entire air travel industry. These men and women are highly skilled workers who must undergo federal background checks as well as lengthy and expensive training programs. The loss of these skilled employees will hobble the industry's ability to quickly respond to increased demand once the country is ready to resume air travel in a post pandemic world. We as a country should not allow this tragic and inefficient outcome to befall such a vital U.S. industry, and immediate extension of the PSP is the only surefire way to avoid this catastrophe.

I also applaud legislators for the inclusion of much-needed emergency relief funding for Amtrak and Transit workers. This funding is absolutely necessary to prevent mass layoffs, furloughs and service reductions in rail transportation, which are again imminent if relief legislation is not passed by October 1st. I also support and commend legislators for including a second round of much needed stimulus checks to help struggling families stay afloat while helping prime the pump of the U.S. economy. Given the sheer number of unemployed workers and uncertainty regarding when their jobs will return, the bill rightly extends the federal unemployment benefit of \$600 per week through January 2021. The package also includes strong support for small businesses and their workers through the Paycheck Protection Program and sorely-needed assistance to state and local governments to help protect the livelihoods of essential workers such as first responders, healthcare workers, firefighters, teachers and a long list of vital government employees. The bill would also help protect essential workers by requiring OSHA to issue a strong, enforceable safety standard which requires all workplaces to develop and implement infection control plans based on CDC expertise. The legislation would help to keep us all safe and address the

public health crisis by committing \$75 billion to testing in order to track and reduce the spread of this deadly virus.

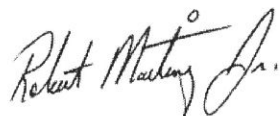
In addition, we applaud lawmakers for including the vitally important Emergency Pension Plan Response Act. This legislation provides necessary relief to struggling multiemployer pension plans, while bolstering the health of the multiemployer pension system overall. It is essential that Congress pass this legislation to assist these struggling plans in order that the earned retirement benefits of these retirees and workers can be paid in full as promised.

Unfortunately, included in the revised HEROES package, amongst a long list of progressive proposals, is a proposal that works against the legislation's intended goal of fostering economic security for America's workers and retirees. The composite proposal known as the GROW Act, has no place in this principled package and should be fully removed from the legislation.

**I thank you for your leadership in assembling this vitally important relief package, and I strongly urge you to swiftly pass this indispensable legislation to help our nation and its workers emerge from this unprecedented economic and public health emergency.**

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301)967-4575 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President