

BOLD ACTION PLATFORM FOR WORKING FAMILIES

First and foremost, there must be no bailouts for big corporations without relief for construction workers. Second, any corporate assistance issued should be engineered to reach the paychecks and benefit funds of workers, not just executives. Corporate assistance should be limited in scope, and should include provisions that protect the rights and economic interests of low- and middle- income workers.

Our Industry is already feeling the immediate effects of the economic chaos that has ensued because of the Pandemic, we are already seeing an enormous spike in unemployment, our small business owner contractor community is forced to lay off workers by droves, and our Industry must be put front and center in any future bailout/stimulus consideration.

Furthermore, working families need Congress to take these four Bold Actions now:

1. **Immediate cash infusion and extended medical leave**
2. **Provide healthcare protections for both the insured and uninsured**
3. **Bolster/secure retirement plans**
4. **Invest in American infrastructure**

In detail:

1. **Immediate Cash Infusion and Extended Medical Leave**

Our membership works in every sector of the US economy. As workplaces are closing across the country due to COVID-19, working families are already suffering. The number one priority in this crisis is making sure people who are sick or need to be quarantined have whatever it takes to care for themselves.

That means paid sick leave, and the IUPAT stands with all working people who need paid sick leave guarantees from the US government. However, the majority of our membership and workers in the construction industry are hourly wage earners.

Bills we have seen so far, such as H.R. 6074 *The Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Act*, will have very little benefit for construction workers in this dire situation. Unlike some industries, construction and finishing trades workers don't get paid leave—***if we don't work, we don't get paid. Congress must act accordingly and leave no construction workers behind.***

While our members are increasingly laid off, whether temporarily or sustained, our workforce must have access to cash in order to pay bills, cover basic human needs and to provide for their families.

Any bill must also aid contractors in extending medical leave to employees so that they can weather this storm. Workers covered by collective bargaining agreements need to be included in any family, medical and paid sick leave proposals. There cannot be limits on the number of employees and days worked to include all workers in these critical measures.

2. Shore up health coverage for workers on multiemployer health plans and provide healthcare protections for both the insured and uninsured

With layoffs, jobsite shutdowns, long term unemployment and prolonged economic uncertainty on the horizon, we are calling on our representatives to provide relief to multiemployer health and welfare plans so that our members and their families can continue to receive health care with no break in coverage.

Now is not the time for millions of Americans to avoid medical care for fear of bankruptcy. Ensuring access to health care is essential to our nation's ability to recover from this economic and public health emergency.

We must curb the spread of disease and ensure every American has health care.

3. Secure Retirement Programs

Our members have worked hard in our industries for decades, providing for our families and communities, the promise of retirement with dignity. With the volatility in the stock market and a projected loss in hours and contributions to our member's retirement plans, we call on congress to act once and for all to help provide relief to our retirement plans.

This requires taking sweeping action to address financial woes in the economy as a whole and on the stock market. But we have learned a crucial lesson from the last economic crisis: trillion dollar bailouts for Wall Street, billionaires and corporations left working people in the cold and provided little relief to our union, our members and their private retirement system. This time around, working people must come first.

We are calling on elected leaders to invest directly in Multiemployer Pension plans like the IUPAT's plan to ensure security for all worker's futures.

4. Invest in American Infrastructure

The government must provide macroeconomic stimulus to uphold the economy as a whole. Any stimulus package should include a plan to quickly put America's construction workers back to work once this pandemic is under control.

- In the short term, we need to be looking at emergency appropriations to support our weakened public health infrastructure, especially hospitals.

- In the medium and long term, recovery efforts should focus on creating jobs for millions of workers and strengthening our country's essential infrastructure like roads, bridges, water systems and energy production.

Across the country, infrastructure is failing and costing lives and billions of dollars every year. We call on Congress to finally act in a bipartisan way to address the growing need for a comprehensive infrastructure plan to deal with this issue once and for all.