Sylvia,

Call On Governor Abbott to Include ALL Workers on the Frontline.

With over 1.3 million UFCW grocery store, pharmacy, and food production workers working tirelessly around the clock to make sure America’s families have the supplies they need during this unprecedented health crisis, it is imperative that Texas ensures these frontline heroes have the support they need to continue battling America’s crisis.

Ask Governor Abbott today to include grocery store workers, pharmacy workers, and food production workers as emergency service providers so that they are eligible for the same benefits as other front line workers, like doctors, firefighters, and police officers, when dealing with this pandemic.

Please take 30 sec to take action.

In Solidarity,

Texas AFL-CIO
Sylvia,

Did you see tonight's breaking news?

47 Democrats in the US Senate rejected a national COVID-19 relief plan that would have put corporate profits first and left working families behind.

Tonight I'm asking you to call our Texas US Senators and tell them that we reject this crony capitalism and call for the Senate to put workers first.

For more information, please see the statement below from President Richard Trumka, and an informational graphic from our friends at the national AFL-CIO.
PUT WORKERS FIRST
PASS THE LABOR PLAN

✔ Workplace Safety Protections
✔ Paid Sick Days
✔ Unemployment insurance
✔ Health Care
✔ Help Paying the Bills
✔ Free Testing and More Hospital Beds
✔ A Real Say in Any Bailouts

CALL YOUR SENATORS NOW:
866-832-1560

AFL-CIO

The Texas AFL-CIO will continue to work with our affiliates and central bodies to lift up the voices, priorities, and values, of working families and frontline workers as we face the threat of coronavirus with unyielding solidarity.

We wish you peace and safety during these trying times.

In Solidarity,

Rick Levy
March 18, 2020

Memo
To: Texas AFL-CIO Executive Board, CLC Officers, Key International Reps
From: Rick Levy & Montserrat Garibay
Re: Important Updates

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

First and foremost, we hope you are well. The spread of coronavirus and the precautions we are taking as a society are unprecedented in our lifetimes. As you know, the officers and staff of the Texas AFL-CIO are working from home. We miss person-to-person contact but we are moving forward with the resources we have, for however long it takes. If you have union business or just need a friendly ear, don’t hesitate to call or otherwise contact any of us.

We want to bring a few items to your attention.

Victory on Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Last week, as part of a larger call for action to help working families navigate this crisis, the Texas AFL-CIO advocated for removal of barriers to obtaining Unemployment Insurance benefits. A growing number of Texans are losing their jobs, whether permanently or temporarily, and workers should not have to observe a waiting period or engage in work-search in a contracting economy.

We renewed the call in a news release yesterday. Late afternoon, the Texas Workforce Commission announced that it would waive the requirements for workers losing their jobs because of the pandemic. This is certainly not everything working people need, but it is the right thing to do and a major win in a difficult arena. We were proud to lead the call for these actions.


Also, our news conference last week included a call for an emergency proclamation that would ease the way for state agencies to help working families. Gov. Greg Abbott announced a disaster proclamation for the entire state last Friday.

Senate District and County Conventions

The coronavirus may upend the near-term political schedule, including one matter that is immediate. This Saturday, March 21, was the date for all of us to get together in Senate District/County Conventions.
We have always encouraged union members to become delegates at every level. The SD/County Conventions are the path toward becoming a state delegate and potentially a national delegate. **We want you to participate and you can do so from home.**

The Texas Democratic Party will hold pro forma conventions, as the rules require, but no business will be conducted other than to gavel the meetings in and out. To register online and enter the mix to become a state delegate, go to: 2020.texasdemocrats.org. The website will walk you through the process as if you were signing in at the traditional gathering.

For those in the Republican convention process, the Texas Republican Party has announced its local parties will adjourn the March 21 Senate/County conventions to a later, as yet uncertain date.

**U.S. Census**

The Texas AFL-CIO has strongly advocated for a complete count in the 2020 U.S. Census. At stake is political strength for Texas, for your cities and counties, and for your neighborhoods. Also at stake: billions of dollars in formula funding that is based on population. Texas has traditionally been one of the most difficult states in which to count, and not just because of sheer numbers.

Please encourage all Texas residents to fill out the form. And please fill out the form for your households. Postcards from the Census Bureau with information on how to connect online are arriving across the state as we speak.

For more information on the Census, go to: https://www.texas aflcio.org/census-2020. To participate in a survey on the best time for a virtual U.S. Census information session to be conducted by the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance and Texas AFL-CIO, go to this link: https://bit.ly/3daXAtm

We will be in touch through this outlet and others as we move forward together through these difficult times. Again, let us know if there is any way we can help.

In solidarity,

Richard Levy
President

Montserrat Garibay
Secretary-Treasurer
March 19, 2020

TO: CWA Local Presidents
FROM: Sylvia J. Ramos, Asst. to the Vice President
SUBJECT: Important Updates-AFL-CIO
Sylvia,

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See our news releases from yesterday:
1. The call to action
2. and the victory

Here is the Texas Workforce Commission announcement. See and hear KRLD News Radio’s coverage shortly after the announcement.

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In Solidarity,

Rick Levy

President, Texas AFL-CIO
COVID-19 Pandemic Resources

The information on the pandemic and virus is constantly evolving, and this site is updated frequently.

COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic, and the disease is spreading rapidly across the United States. Federal, state and local governments are taking steps to slow the spread of the disease by limiting crowds in public settings, such as schools, workplaces, public transportation, and cultural and sporting events. These necessary measures not only disrupt everyday life, but cause economic uncertainty for millions of working people.

The labor movement is working nonstop to protect the health and safety of all workers, including workers on the front lines of this public health emergency. We have trained, educated and equipped our members with the tools they need to be safe on the job, but we are demanding additional urgent action to ensure employers implement comprehensive plans to protect front-line workers and reduce the risk of exposure to the general public.

This crisis has exposed the shortcomings of our worker protection and health care systems. We cannot afford to allow cost considerations to discourage workers from taking the necessary action to protect public health. Workers should not incur additional costs for doing what is recommended or required, including staying home from work or getting the tests and treatments they need.

The pandemic also is beginning to inflict a heavy toll on the economy. We are doing everything we can to limit the negative impact on the livelihoods of working people, and we continue to demand dramatic action from local, state, and federal governments on a scale every bit as large as the threat.

Below are resources and guidance from leading experts, government agencies and America's unions about the COVID-19 pandemic, and recommendations to limit its impact on working families.