Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the more than 500,000 men and women of the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA), I want to thank you for your leadership and vision and express our strong support for H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act. This legislation will provide critical and necessary investments in the federal government’s response to the COVID-19 economic and public health crisis.

This pandemic requires massive and forward-leaning policies and investments that address the emergency needs and resources that are necessary to rebuild our economy, our country, and the shattered lives of families everywhere. This extraordinary piece of legislation does just that.

Some of the key provisions that LIUNA absolutely supports in the HEROES Act include:

- A “hazard pay” fund to provide premium pay for essential workers who have had to risk exposure to the virus as they stay on the job while much of the rest of the country has been shut down;
- 100% COBRA subsidies to help laid off and furloughed workers pay their health care premiums, ensuring continuity in health care for our members and their families;
- Extending the $600 weekly increase in unemployment insurance;
- Additional funding for OSHA for workplace health and safety and a new Emergency Temporary Standard to protect our members who are still working;
- Much needed assistance to state and local governments;
- Funding for the United States Postal Service;
- Additional financial assistance for individuals and dependent children up to the age of 24;
• Immigrants including Dreamers and TPS holders being eligible for cash payments and receiving work authorization extensions;
• Critical funding for election protection, including voting by mail; and,
• Protections for telework and workers’ compensation presumption for federal employees.

LIUNA commends you for including the critical and desperately needed pension reform measures in this legislation. We also support the inclusion of the forward thinking and progressive proposal (The GROW Act) that will provide a useful tool and possible option for defined benefit multi-employer pension funds. This will allow these funds to transition to a “composite plan” if and when trustees deem necessary to protect and ensure the retirement security of their participants, retirees, and beneficiaries.

The HEROES Act delivers a strong, urgent, and forceful response to this unparalleled crisis and will provide the resources to protect lives, jobs, communities, our economy, and our country. We once again commend you for your leadership and look forward to working with you to ensure that this legislation is enacted into law.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

TERRY O’SULLIVAN
General President

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