



U.S. Senate
Gary Peters
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20515
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November 17, 2020

Dear Senator Peters:

This election cycle has UFCW 876 breathing a sigh of relief as well; but we are not resting! That is why I am reaching out to you today. We really need your support in making our member's lives safer, healthier and recognized.

As you know, our members work predominately in grocery settings, however they also work in meat packing warehouses, nursing homes, pharmacies, retail and as EMT's and paramedics. But they all have one thing in common, they are forward-facing, front line workers who contribute to the good and welfare of our communities while risking their well-being. Without them, our families would not have the necessities it takes to survive this pandemic.

Unfortunately, they have went from hero to forgotten in a matter of months. Our members are still at risk of getting sick, getting their coworkers and families sick and in some cases dying.

Here's what we are asking.

Reinstatement of hero pay. We need your help in getting hero pay back into the local and national conversation. And by supporting Senator Peter's COVID-19 "Heroes Fund" proposal as part of a legislative package providing \$190 million in pandemic premium pay to reward and support the sacrifices of essential front-line workers.

Better safety and health protections. Attention to the virus in our workplaces is deteriorating - quickly. We must re-implement and enforce the following: limiting hours of operation to allowing for cleaning and restocking in a safe environment; disinfecting of high-touch surfaces daily; reduction of customer traffic (20% of store capacity); customer social distancing; implementation of physical barriers and other modifications to prevent infection; mandating mask wear by customers, vendors and workers; daily cart cleaning, daily temperature checks, readily available, employer-provided PPE and hand sanitizer.

Front line status recognition. Our members deserve "front-line" designation. Their vulnerability demands priority for upcoming vaccinations, that they have access to rapid testing and that federal funding is designated to support programs that will provide more protection.

We are asking you today to write a letter of advocacy on behalf of UFCW 876 members to The Kroger Company. We have attached our letter sent on 11/16/20 for reference, addresses are included. Please copy me with any correspondence you issue.

We ARE Stronger Together,

Dan Pedersen
UFCW 876 President
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attachment: KrogerLtr 11.16.20

