



February 17, 2021

Senator Gary Peters
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Gary Peters,

I am reaching out to you today to gain your support in recognizing the hard work and continued dedication of the thousands of UFCW 876 members working in retail grocery, meatpacking and food processing plants across the state of Michigan during this historical pandemic, by actively advocating for UFCW's Essential Food Worker Relief Fund.

Our members have remained dedicated, forward-facing public servants in the very center of this devastating pandemic. Well over 69,900 members have been infected or exposed to COVID and 374 have died. We know these numbers do not adequately reflect the reality of serving thousands of customers each day or working shoulder-to-shoulder in a crowded plant. We also know our members did not chose to work in a life-threatening career and would welcome the chance to work from home.

They continue to work in the worst conditions ever in the history of our state and are by and large - being ignored by nearly every system that could and should provide financial assistance.

Senator Peters, I ask you protect my members in the upcoming COVID relief package through the "Essential Food Worker Relief Fund" during budget reconciliation. The UFCW is proposing a \$5 - 12 billion grant program, managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to distribute premium or hazard pay grants of \$1000 to \$6000 to individual food workers. These workers have been putting their lives on the line during this pandemic and deserve support.

I have attached two documents outlining the proposal and very much appreciate your time and consideration.

Very Sincerely,

Dan Pedersen
UFCW 876 President