

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

The challenge of this moment in American history is massive, but so is the opportunity to improve people's lives in a meaningful and lasting way. We stand ready to help you meet this moment and enact bold, proven solutions in the first 100 days of this new administration. We strongly support the following initiatives that will allow every American to thrive. Solutions to crush this virus, get people back to work and ensure the promise of economic and educational opportunity for all:

- **Invest in essential public services.** Heroes like nurses, teachers, EMTs, sanitation workers, school staff, corrections officers and other front-line public service workers have sacrificed everything to get this virus under control – even, in many cases, their lives. Congress must act now to help states, cities, towns, and schools fill budget holes created by the pandemic. More than 1.3 million public service workers have lost their jobs in the past year. Health, education and emergency services are at risk of being slashed in state budgets, which will make it harder to get vaccines in arms, confront the virus and keep communities safe. And critically, these funds are essential to safely reopen our schools. Our heroes were there for us; Congress has the chance now to lift them up in a meaningful way.
- **Rebuild our neighborhoods.** Potholes. Crumbling bridges. Unsafe schools. In every neighborhood, we see with our own eyes the need for robust investment to rebuild American infrastructure. More boldly, we must seize the opportunity to look to the future by investing in high-speed rail, broadband and a modernized lock and dam network. This will generate good-paying union jobs, create healthy communities and spur private economic development. It will also benefit our families, boost the economy and confront climate change in a smart, jobs-first way. Without these investments, our economy will become less and less competitive globally.
- **Guarantee health care.** Health care should be a basic right in America. We need 100-percent funded coverage for COBRA, as well as a robust public option to compete with insurance companies. In the midst of the greatest health crisis this country has faced in more than a century, we must guarantee that every American has quality, affordable coverage.
- **Realize racial equality.** We must root out systemic racism in the workplace, housing and every aspect of American life. Perhaps most importantly, we must restore voting rights and defeat the suppression efforts that make it harder for people of color to exercise

democracy's most sacred right.

Moreover, we must pass comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship and enforces laws against employers who abuse immigrant workers through wage theft and off-the-books payments. The inscription at the Statue of Liberty still means something. We will not concede a single word or let modern-day fascists change who we are. We welcome this fight, because we are on the side of humanity and decency.

- **Reward work and rebuild the middle class.** When unions are strong, America is strong. When Americans join unions, their pay, health benefits and job security improve. That is the simple, undeniable union difference. Union jobs are key to rebuilding the middle class and making sure our economy works for everyone. It is well past time for Congress to make it easier for Americans to join unions by passing the Protecting the Right to Organize Act and the Public Service Freedom to Negotiate Act, as well as other measures to strengthen union rights.

Elites and corporate titans have only gotten richer during the pandemic. Yet, they oppose working people's demand for their fair share of the value of their own work, even as millions have lost jobs and gone hungry in the last year. We urge you to disregard the crocodile tears of the elites and fight like hell for working people.

Each of the areas outlined above are essential; we cannot allow them to fall victim to political gamesmanship – especially any effort to split each priority into tiny pieces to make them more palatable. Their enactment means a full recovery from the worst economic and public health crisis in generations. It will also restore trust among voters whose loss of faith in government has led to violent consequences. Voters must see for themselves real results in their lives and their communities. We know your burden is heavy, and we are ready to help.

We have never been more fired up to ensure success as we are at this moment. We cannot let this opportunity slip away.

Sincerely,



Randi Weingarten
President
AFT



Lee Saunders
President
AFSCME



Douglas McCarron
General President
UBC



D. Taylor
International President
UNITE-HERE