



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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February 25, 2021

Dear Representative:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE) – a labor union that represents over 85,000 working people across the public sector, the private sector, and in federal government – we urge you to pass the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) as part of the budget reconciliation process. This \$1.9 trillion relief package includes IFPTE members' most urgent priorities and necessary provisions that previous COVID relief legislation has failed to include.

Working families are looking to Congress to help provide economic relief and support. Americans in every congressional district of our nation are dealing with the most severe economic crisis of their lives. This is a crisis caused by the ongoing national public health emergency and further exacerbated by existing inequities in community health care, national and regional infrastructure deficits, and state and local government budgets and services that have yet to recover from the last economic crisis. Thankfully, the COVID relief legislation that has been marked up by nine House Committees as part of the budget reconciliation process provides urgently needed federal relief.

By passing this bill, Congress will ensure that state, county, and municipal governments have the fiscal support they need to continue to combat the pandemic and economic fallout and are well-positioned for the economic recovery. With \$350 billion for state and local governments, \$170 billion for public education, and \$75 billion for housing and community development, this bill preserves public sector jobs, maintains and restores important publicly provided services, and ensures that governments have resources to adequately respond to public health needs and the economic distress facing our communities.

This legislation also provides relief for workers in the aviation manufacturing industry by including the bipartisan Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act. This provision provides accountable and limited federal support for aerospace employers and protects jobs in this high-skill and strategic export-oriented industry. Federal support for this industry is critical for ensuring that the U.S. aerospace supply chain can help drive the post-COVID economic recovery and continue to play a leading role in our nation's global economic competitiveness in the years ahead.

Further, this legislation helps laid off workers maintain their families' health insurance coverage, extends pandemic unemployment insurance and emergency unemployment compensation, commits necessary funding for a coordinated national strategy for vaccine rollout and contract tracing, expands food security and nutrition programs, and provides direct financial assistance to individuals, including those in mixed status households. We expect this bill to include a gradual increase of the federal minimum wage, a long overdue adjustment that increases pay for 40 million workers while generating economic growth. Finally, IFPTE is hopeful that lawmakers will include two weeks of emergency leave for federal workers impacted by COVID-19, which was provided in the Families First Coronavirus Act of 2020, but expired at the end of last year.

Therefore, we urge you to vote in support of this critically needed legislation and enable the next phase of our national response to the pandemic and the economic crisis. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us or contact IFPTE legislative representative Faraz Khan at 301-275-6038.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon
President

Matthew Biggs
Secretary-Treasurer/Legislative Director