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Support for Frontline Worker of the Covid-19 Pandemic

WHEREAS: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data show that as of September 25, 2020, there are nearly 7 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States and growing; and

WHEREAS: the Ohio Director of Health Stay at Home Order issued March 22, 2020 defines essential workers to include those in Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Functions, and Essential Infrastructure; and

WHEREAS: the COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly intensified the daily lives of essential workers; and

WHEREAS: first responders, including firefighters, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement, and other emergency management personnel, are facing unprecedented challenges to stay healthy and serve their communities; and

WHEREAS: grocery and food service workers across the Nation are working to meet the essential demands of keeping shelves stocked with essential products and preparing food for the United States amid COVID-19, while facing a greater infection risk from higher levels of public interaction; and

WHEREAS: public works employees, including sanitization personnel, continue to keep our streets and public spaces clean; and

WHEREAS: postal and delivery workers continue to keep their delivery operations working as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure by delivering medicines, Social Security checks, and other essential goods; and

WHEREAS: a March 19, 2020, Guidance Memo issued by the Department of Homeland Security recognized health care providers, first responders, public safety and law enforcement officers, and workers supporting groceries as being part of an “Essential Critical Infrastructure” workforce.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO calls on the Governor, as well as, state and federal legislators, to protect all essential workers by:

- 1) Providing premium pay for essential workers.
- 2) Designating COVID-19 as an occupational illness and providing a temporary “presumptive conclusion” for worker compensation claims.
- 3) Implementing enforceable health and safety standards.
- 4) Issuing statewide mask mandates.
- 5) Opposing corporate immunity from COVID-19 liability.

- 6) Protecting workers from retaliation when raising COVID-19 specific health and safety issues and/or after having contracted COVID-19.
- 7) Providing free or reduced cost childcare for essential workers.
- 8) Providing free personal protective equipment, including respirators to essential workers.
- 9) Requiring coronavirus treatments, tests, medicines and vaccines to be provided free of cost to essential workers.
- 10) Requiring paid leave to cover testing, quarantine, isolation, and/or treatment for essential workers who have contracted COVID-19 or who may need to care for a family member infected with COVID-19.

*Submitted by: **UFCW, Local 75***