



4/27/21

Dear Governor Cuomo

New York's workers have rightly been called heroes throughout the pandemic, for caring for our sick, delivering critical supplies, and keeping our state moving through the emergency. Last week the NY State Legislature passed the NY HERO Act to ensure these workers have basic workplace protections for this pandemic and whatever comes next. New York's unions, representing hundreds of thousands of essential workers, urge you to sign this critical piece of legislation into law as written without amendments.

While the vaccine gives us hope we know the pandemic is far from over as new variants spread and dozens of new Yorkers continue to die every day. Many of the dead are our members who were infected in the course of their jobs. Workers in New York have worked without masks, gloves, or access to sanitary facilities, without being informed of positive tests in their workplace, crowded into spaces where they could not socially distance from coworkers, and without protections from retaliation if they demanded safe working conditions. It is a tragedy that so many have died in this service and that so many continue to work without protections from COVID-19.

New York has led the way in fighting the virus by creating important reopening guidelines for employers and by quickly expanding vaccine access. We now have the opportunity to build on this progress and lead the nation by taking the lessons learned from Covid-19 and creating the first permanent airborne infectious disease standard and by giving workers a meaningful voice in workplace safety through the authorization of health and safety committees.

New York's workers need the NY HERO Act to protect themselves, their families, and their communities from COVID-19 and whatever comes next. We urge you to quickly sign this legislation without amendments so no more workers die preventable deaths. The best way to celebrate our heroes is to keep them safe on the job.

RWDSU  
UFCW 2013  
UAW Region 9A  
NY NJ Regional Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU  
UFCW 1500