



# Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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**"AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"**

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April 2, 2020

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

On behalf of more than 151,000 members of the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), I wanted to personally thank you for your strong support of workers during the current coronavirus crisis. Your leadership has already halted furloughs at our airlines, kept vital worker protections in place for transit workers, and significantly increased unemployment benefits for workers who have lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic. Our members are lucky to have you in the U.S. Senate.

I especially want to highlight your recent comments in support of hazard pay for transit workers. 95% of TWU members have been designated essential workers. They continue to come to work in order to make sure medical professionals, first responders, grocery store clerks, and others are able to do their jobs to get us through this crisis. While our friends and neighbors are encouraged to stay home to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we are continually put at risk by the nature of our work. And, due to critical shortages of personal protective equipment, we are often doing our work without masks, gloves, or cleaning supplies.

The results of this situation are sadly predictable. As of today, ten TWU members have lost their lives to this virus. Many more members, including one at Local 208 in Columbus, have tested positive for COVID-19.

Our members are on the frontlines, risking their lives in order to ensure medical supplies and personnel can get to hospitals, that grocery stores have food to stock their shelves, and that everyone who still works outside of their home can return to their families at the end of their shift. During this crisis, our work has become even more hazardous and our members deserve to be recognized for their courage and dedication in continuing to do this essential work.

Once again, thank you for all you've done and all you are doing on behalf of TWU members. Your support for all workers is helping to give our members strength and hope as we push through this disaster.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Samuelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "S".

John Samuelson  
International President