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**The TWU Strongly Supports Bipartisan Senate Coronavirus Legislation
*CARES Act protects frontline workforce, reimburses transit agencies, and
expands unemployment assistance***

Washington, D.C. – The Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO (TWU) strongly supports the bipartisan *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* (H.R. 748, as amended).

The *CARES Act* helps stabilize the transportation sector and delivers immediate aid to workers. Among our priorities included in the bill are:

- \$33 billion in direct federal aid to airlines and airline contractors with appropriate conditions to ensure that all funds go directly to support the frontline workforce and are not used to undermine the collective bargaining process.
- \$25 billion reimbursement for transit systems with increased costs and lost revenue during the pandemic.
- \$1 billion in additional support for Amtrak workers who are not eligible for state-based unemployment insurance.
- A broad unemployment insurance and assistance program for all workers who are unemployed due to the pandemic.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread, ninety-five percent of TWU members have been classified as “essential employees.” While much of the country has been asked to stay at home, TWU transit, airline, and railroad workers have continued to go to work.

Whether they’ve been transporting medical professionals to hospitals, delivering personal protective equipment to those who need it, sanitizing and disinfecting transportation systems, or returning Americans home from abroad, our members have been on the front lines protecting the public from the virus.

“I want to thank Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi for their leadership on behalf of workers in this process,” said Transport Workers Union President John Samuelson. “I also want to thank

Senator Maria Cantwell, Chairman Peter DeFazio, Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairwoman Nita Lowey, Senator Jack Reed, Chairman David Price, Senator Patty Murray, and Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro for making sure the details of this bill benefit transportation workers in every sector.

“The CARES Act comes at a critical time and provides a huge boost for our members, who have been working to keep the public safe for the last month at great risk to themselves and their families,” continued Samuelsen. *“Workers on the frontlines deserve real action, and this bill helps to ease the financial hardship and uncertainty that our members have been facing during the pandemic. The CARES Act recognizes the essential work that our members have performed and would help preserve the economic security of our members during a difficult time.”*

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The Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, represents more than 151,000 workers in the airline, railroad, transit, universities, utilities and services sectors