



Rail Division Members:

COVID-19
UPDATES

What the CARES Act Means for Railway Workers

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides significant support for rail workers and the industry in general.

Here are the most important provisions of the bill:

Grant Funding

- ❖ Provides *\$1 billion* in grants to Amtrak

Worker Protections

- ❖ Requires the railroad to prioritize furloughs and avoid layoffs with these funds
- ❖ Ensures furloughed employees have the right to return to their jobs once intercity service is restored to March 1, 2020 levels – no later than the date on which the service has been fully restored
- ❖ Calls for Amtrak to report furloughs to Congress on a weekly basis
- ❖ Prevents Amtrak from permanently discontinuing any routes or customer services

Expanded Unemployment Insurance Benefits

- ❖ Brings railroad workers' unemployment insurance benefits on par with state-based unemployment insurance programs
 - Provides an additional \$600 per week for up to four months for railroad workers who are unemployed due to the pandemic
 - Allows for an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits through December 31, 2020
 - Temporarily eliminates the 7-day waiting period to start collecting unemployment benefits

For more information: contact your TWU local union leadership.