

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write to congratulate you on progress your administration has made in combatting the Covid-19 virus. Your administration's efforts have saved the lives of countless Americans and have put our country on the path towards recovery. However, we urgently request that your administration immediately issue the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) to protect frontline workers from Covid-19.

While your administration has made significant strides to protect workers and the public from the Covid-19 virus, frontline workers remain at risk as they face continuing exposure to Covid-19 in the workplace. As you know, many frontline workers are working to provide health care, groceries, meatpacking, transportation, and other essential services that keep our country running, often without enforceable health and safety standards specific to Covid-19.

On January 21st, you issued an Executive Order directing the Department of Labor to "consider whether any emergency temporary standards on Covid-19, including with respect to masks in the workplace, are necessary, and if such standards are determined to be necessary, issue them by March 15, 2021." The ETS was only formally sent to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on April 26th, beginning a two-week Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) review.

More than two months have passed since your original deadline for an ETS to be issued, and OMB has had a month to review the proposed ETS. The consequences of these delays are dire, and for some workers the delay has been fatal. Our nation's workers need an enforceable federal standard that will ensure that their employers provide the comprehensive protections they need, including ventilation, respiratory protection, testing and screening, exposure notification, and on-site vaccinations.

Further, on May 13th, the CDC issued new Covid guidelines which state that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks, avoid crowds or large gatherings, or need to isolate after

exposure or get tested unless they are symptomatic. We are concerned that these new guidelines may put frontline workers across the country at further risk of illness and death while no OSHA ETS is in place. We respectfully urge you to issue the OSHA ETS and ensure it covers all at-risk workers without further delay.

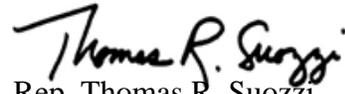
Sincerely,



Rep. Mark Pocan
Co-Chair, Labor Caucus



Rep. Linda T. Sánchez
Co-Chair, Labor Caucus



Rep. Thomas R. Suozzi
Co-Chair, Labor Caucus



Rep. Steven Horsford
Co-Chair, Labor Caucus



Rep. Donald Norcross
Co-Chair, Labor Caucus



Rep. Debbie Dingell
Co-Chair, Labor Caucus

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