



XPO WORKER IN BUFFALO: WE NEED OUR UNION!

Former XPO driver Mark Cross, who has been out of work with a foot injury, said he is fed up with the way the company has mistreated him over the past five months, making his injury far worse for him and his family.

Cross resigned from the company on Oct. 9, 2017, but not until he endured months of mistreatment. His story follows.

Cross, who has worked as a linehaul and city driver at the Buffalo, New York terminal for the past 14 years, broke his foot about three years ago. It has broken twice since then, with his latest injury putting him out of work since April 12 of this year.

Cross pays his health-care premiums on time, but his disability payments (two-thirds of his regular pay) are constantly late. For example, a recent payment, which was supposed to be paid weekly, was three weeks late.

"They're giving me the runaround," Cross said of XPO's insurance company and the company's Benefits Department. "I'll call the insurance company and they tell me to call XPO. I call XPO and they tell me to call the insurance company. My medical bills are piling up because I don't get paid on time. This is not just happening to me, but also for my wife, who has a herniated disc and they're giving her the runaround too."

Cross' right foot is in constant pain, and the ongoing insurance woes make it worse.

"It's too much stress, its unneeded stress," Cross said. "I pay my premiums. I'm not late paying those. Why are they withholding the little money I receive? They are also giving misinformation about how and when to withdraw 401(k) funds. Their system is very dysfunctional."

Cross' situation is yet another example of why workers at XPO need to form their union as Teamsters, Cross said.

"XPO workers need representation because of the unfair treatment," he said. "Employees just don't matter to XPO. There's a revolving door. The company's attitude is: 'If you don't like it, there's the door.' We need a contract and we need someone to have our backs. I've been with the company for 14 years and it's gone downhill, especially since XPO bought Con-way in 2015. We need to be unified, we need our union."

Cross knows first-hand what it's like to be a Teamster. He was a driver at the Buffalo News-Press for three years before his current job.

"Also, my father-in-law is a 30-plus year Teamster in the freight industry," Cross said. "He's receiving a good retirement security, something we need as well. He's 85 years old and doing very well. We need this same retirement security for when we leave the company, but right now we don't have that security. We need to fight for a more secure future."

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