

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

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KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

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April 22, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar II
Secretary
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

On behalf of the more than 50,000 Teamsters working in health care services including thousands working in a number of different key roles for the American Red Cross, I write in support of the Red Cross' recent request for funds authorized by the CARES Act (H.R. 748).

As the COVID-19 coronavirus has spread across the country, the Red Cross has been faced with unprecedented changes in the supply of, and the demand for blood. As a result of necessary social distancing requirements, blood drives where the Red Cross used to collect hundreds, even thousands of units are now producing a fraction of that amount. While it is true that demand for blood has temporarily dropped as hospitals have been forced to postpone elective surgeries, that need will quickly spike once the postponed surgeries are rescheduled en masse. That's why it is essential that the Red Cross is able to maintain staffing levels for the duration of this crisis, so that they are able to quickly respond to blood demands once this crisis has abated.

The Red Cross has submitted a request for \$424.8 million to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for funding that was authorized under the CARES Act to address the blood supply chain. The Red Cross would use these funds

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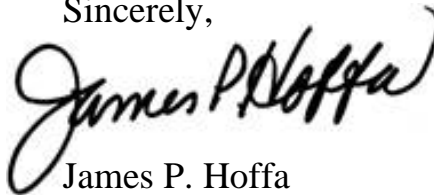
to guarantee operations and retain staff until the medical system returns to some level of normalcy.

We ask for your support for this request in order to maintain the security and availability of the nation's blood supply, but also to support an American employer seeking to do the right thing by its workforce. Much of the CARES Act was written with the objective of helping employers maintain payroll and benefits in order to avert an even greater economic catastrophe than we currently face.

We are so proud of our Teamster members who are working in health care services and all essential roles. Now more than ever, it is readily apparent just how much Teamster members truly "keep America moving."

Thank you, for all that you and the Department have done already for our country in this urgent time of need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James P. Hoffa", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

James P. Hoffa
General President