



Local Union 97

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

New York State

November 17, 2021

Lonnie R. Stephenson, President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
900 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Request for Assistance on Vaccine Mandate Issues

Dear President Stephenson,

We hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for your leadership during these challenging times. We write to request the International Union's assistance with issues related to the vaccine mandates.

While we are mindful of the public health and workplace health-and-safety goals of the vaccine mandates, many of our members are very concerned about how the mandates will affect their employment. As you know, on September 9, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14042, directing executive departments and agencies to incorporate a vaccine mandate into their contracts with private entities ("Federal Contractor Mandate"). We are doing everything within our power to hold employers to account and achieve what we can through bargaining as it relates to the impacts that the Federal Contractor Mandate has on our members.

However, the Federal Contractor Mandate is very inflexible in a number of respects. For example, it does not allow for weekly COVID-19 testing as an alternative to receiving a vaccination. Further, the Federal Contractor Mandate does not allow for exemptions for employees who work exclusively outdoors or from home. It would also broadly apply to many employees who have little or no connection to the employer's federal contract.

While the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard ("OSHA Mandate") is not quite as inflexible as the Federal Contractor Mandate, many of our members view it as government overreach that encroaches on their individual rights. (We understand that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a temporary stay of enforcement, but note that the stay may soon be lifted.) There are also legitimate questions as to the legality and wisdom of the federal government's attempt to stretch OSHA beyond its congressionally-authorized mission in order to force vaccine mandates into the workplace.

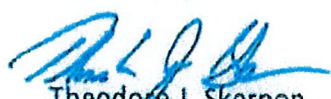
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Accordingly, we respectfully request that the International Union agree to assist us and our members by bringing its political and advocacy-related resources to bear on these issues. While we recognize that it may not be possible to convince the powers that be in Washington, D.C. to reverse course on the vaccine mandates in favor of leaving vaccine issues to the collective bargaining process, we are hopeful that the International Union can achieve some success in advocating for added flexibility and exemptions to reduce the adverse impacts on our members.

Again, thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you on this important matter.

In solidarity,



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President/Business Manager
IBEW Local 97



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/dl

cc: Mike Welsh, IVP, IBEW Third District
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