

Feel free to use the IATSE Action Network link [HERE](#) or email Senators and US Reps individually. Below are links that take you to their contact me page as well as an email template.

Senators:

US Senator Tammy Duckworth: <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/connect/email-tammy>

US Senator Dick Durbin: <https://www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/email>

Congressmen:

Congressman Dan Lipinski: <https://lipinski.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=58>

Congressman Bobby Rush: <https://rush.house.gov/contact/email-me>

Congressman Danny Davis: <https://davis.house.gov/email-me/>

Congressman Sean Casten: <https://casten.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos: <https://bustos.house.gov/contact/>

Congressman Brad Schneider: <https://schneider.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email>

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi: <https://krishnamoorthi.house.gov/contact/email>

Congressman Chuy Garcia: <https://chuygarcia.house.gov/contact/email-me>

Congresswoman Lauren Underwood: <https://underwood.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky: <https://schakowsky.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>

Congressman Bill Foster: <https://foster.house.gov/contact/email-me>

Congressman Mike Quigley: <https://quigleyforms.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/>

Congresswoman Robin Kelly: <https://robinkelly.house.gov/contact/email-me>

The entertainment is on RED ALERT! In March, live events, theater, trade shows, and motion picture and television production were completely shut down across the country to slow the spread of COVID-19. Behind the scenes workers want to get back to work in their specialized crafts, but the pandemic has made it unsafe to do so until further notice. The nearly 12 million workers employed by the industry were the first to lose work, and will likely be the last to return.

The first round of COVID-19 relief legislation passed in the CARES Act was largely successful in providing a lifeline for these workers, however, many important provisions have since lapsed. Yet, the industry continues to be decimated, and behind-the-scenes workers are going bankrupt and dying. We must act NOW.

The September 1st Red Alert Day of Action is all about making our voices heard in the halls of Congress and around this country. Will you join us and urge elected officials to pass a comprehensive set of provisions that help protect the people who make American culture happen?

What behind-the-scenes workers need:

- **Extend the “CARES” Act’s unemployment insurance provisions for as long as the health crisis persists.** #SaveThe600
- **Preserve workers' healthcare** and ensure that no-one loses their benefits by passing a 100 percent COBRA premium subsidy to keep families insured on their job-based healthcare plan and extend eligibility to 36 months.
- **Ensure the safety of entertainment workers as states allow workplaces to re-open by ordering OSHA to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard** that establishes an employer’s responsibility to protect workers from infection. Under current standards no such obligation exists which leaves the door open and put workers and their families at risk.
- **Protect the healthy pension plans and earned pension checks of entertainment workers** by allowing multiemployer plans to implement policies that safeguarded pensions after the Great Recession, such as freezing zone status, smoothing investment losses, and doing no harm to healthy pension plans.
- Provide direct economic support for organizations in the arts, entertainment, and media industries with appropriate workforce restoration requirements to **get people back to work when it is safe** to do so.
- Update the Qualified Performing Artist tax deduction, allowing creative professionals to **keep more of our hard-earned money** by deducting necessary business expenses from their taxes, now due in July.
- Make sure workers in all states have access to COVID-19 relief by demanding that states **ramp up and improve their unemployment claim processing.**

Email Template:

Senator X/Congressman X

As one of your constituents, I would like to express my gratitude and commend Congress for its passage of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security “CARES” Act. This bill will provide tangible and immediate economic relief for entertainment workers across the United States, many of whom found themselves out of work overnight due to COVID-19 related cancellations across all sectors of the entertainment industry.

Entertainment freelance, or gig, workers who expected to work for a day, week, month, or season on a production are now without planned wages and benefits indefinitely. Current state unemployment insurance benefits tend to be insufficient for entertainment workers, and many are not eligible for the

paid leave expansion in the newly passed Families First Coronavirus Response Act because of the unique nature of freelance work.

I thank you for expanding access to economic support for entertainment workers in the CARES Act via the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program and expanded unemployment benefits.

States are now working to implement these expanded federal benefits with widely varying degrees of efficacy. I ask that you closely monitor access to this vital economic support in our state and press the agencies responsible to make benefits available as expediently as possible.

I request that subsequent COVID-19 relief legislation include continued access to affordable and quality healthcare, pension relief, and economic support for the entertainment and arts industry to put people back to work. I also stand in solidarity with those on the front lines of this coronavirus pandemic and call for increased safety and protections as they seek to help others.

I look forward to the day when entertainment workers can start helping the country heal, but we must first mitigate this public health crisis and ensure we sustain working people until they can safely return to work.

Thank you,

YOUR NAME