



MICHAEL H. BOLTON, DIRECTOR

UNITED STEELWORKERS



DISTRICT 2

NEWS

APRIL 2020 • VOLUME 10, ISSUE 4, PAGE 1

Please Stay Safe and Healthy!

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Southern MI Sub-District Office

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(734) 285-0367

USW District 2

Council Steering Committee

The District 2 Council By-Laws established a District 2 Council Steering Committee comprised of a rank and file structure. It was set up to assist in the following:

- Development of agenda for Council Conference.
- Planning of the District Council Conference Educational Conferences.
- District 2 strategic planning.
- Determining and assessing educational needs within the District.
- Generating and leading activism and other purposes consistent with the mission and directives of District 2 and the USW.

The elected members of the Steering Committee are listed below by manufacturing sector. If you need to contact a Steering Committee Member, please do so by using the email provided below.

Name	LU#	Sector	Email Address
Ron Fancal	1296	Steel and Related	rfancal@yahoo.com
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A Message from Michael Bolton



There are two big news stories to discuss this month. The first is the latest on the Covid-19 outbreak, which is wreaking physical, emotional and economic havoc across the country. Next, is the huge upset Wisconsin Democrats pulled off during our April election. Let's start off with the topic that is affecting just about every District 2 Steelworker: the coronavirus.

As of April 29, the latest stats on Covid-19 show the United States has 1,038,500, confirmed cases with the deaths of 60,400 Americans. Michigan, which is one of the hardest hit states in the country, reported 40,399 confirmed cases with 3,670 deaths; while Wisconsin has seen 6,520 confirmed cases resulting in 308 deaths.

It should also be noted that as of April 29, Wisconsin experienced 1,4891 hospitalizations as a result of the pandemic, which is the number state leaders are trying desperately to control. It's feared that if the health system becomes overwhelmed, hospitals in cities like New York, Detroit, and New Orleans would reach the breaking point. But, thanks to the social distancing programs implemented by governors, they were able to level the so-called curve and prevent further disaster.

In an attempt to slow the outbreak, both District 2 state governors instituted "Stay Home - Stay Safe" policies to reduce contact with possible carriers, forcing businesses, large and small, to shut down or reduce operations. As a result, a record number of workers have filed for unemployment over the past three weeks, with additional layoffs being announced almost daily. To relieve some of the financial burden being created by the pandemic, Congress passed the CARES Act, calling for creations of programs to help industries weather the financial storm.

And, thanks to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and their "Liberal Wish List", Congress also approved measures to support working class families during the pandemic. The measures called for extending unemployment benefits from 30 to 39 weeks, increased the amount of benefits by \$600 per week and created a \$1,200 payment to every adult American earning less than \$75,000 annually. It also included \$500 for each dependent child in the household under the age of 17. Folks earning more than \$75,000, but less than \$99,000, will receive a check, but it will be reduced by \$5 for every \$100 over the \$75,000 threshold.

On January 20, the United States saw its first

reported case of the virus, a 35-year old person who had recently returned from a visit to Wuhan, China. Wuhan is the area where experts believe the virus originated. Since the initial case, governors across the country have demonstrated remarkable leadership by instituting stay at home policies they knew were going to cause hardship, but their strategies seem to be paying off as the number of reported cases, hospitalizations, and deaths appear to be leveling out; and, in some states they are actually going down.

Unfortunately, the leadership coming out of Washington has been lagging, to say the least. In fact, I believe the President's actions and words have led to a further polarization of Americans and made the pandemic a political issue. This is one of the worst situations our country has ever confronted; and we still aren't through with it yet. The President should stop the name calling and knee jerk reactions, and start focusing on ways to bring the economy back in the safest possible way. As Americans, we have a history of rallying around our leaders to bring the country out of adverse times. People want to support this President now, but he needs to stop indulging his base and start being everyone's leader.

However, that is not going to happen. This President does not have the ability to unite the nation. He is the great divider and that is never going to change. Proof? During the week of April 17, right wing protesters gathered in the capitals of Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia. The crowd came complete with assault rifles, large caliber side arms and Confederate flags. The small mobs probably wouldn't have gained much coverage in the press media except they decided to block traffic while waving Trump 2020 flags and placards.

It should be noted here that granted, from the photos that I saw, there weren't many rocket scientists in this crowd. However, you would think one of them would consider this: The mob was there to protest stay at home and social distancing policies. None of them were wearing masks and all were rubbing their sweaty bodies together. In short, if one of them had covid-19, it's safe to say that a whole bunch have it now. But, all kidding aside, these folks were risking extending the very policies they were protesting. More importantly though, they were risking the lives and safety of coronavirus patients who were fighting the disease and frontline workers who would be forced to treat them without the proper PPE. But, I am being too hard on the thugs. It's probably wrong to assume that all humans have the ability to walk and think at the same time.

On the day after the rally, Trump announced his plan to reopen America, a plan that is pretty much dumping the responsibility on the nation's governors. If that wasn't bad enough, the President started his morning by tweeting encouragement to protesters to

— Continued on Page 2 —



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MAY 22, 2020, is the deadline for submissions for the next issue.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

Did you know?



The coronavirus pandemic has impacted the lives of millions of working people and our families. Go to the AFL-CIO Website or <https://aflcio.org/covid-19/state-resources>. Select your state to find the resources, programs and benefits available in your area to assist you during this crisis.



YOUR UNION YOUR VOICE

#USWVOICES

OUR CORE ISSUES

- COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
- SAFETY AND HEALTH
- JOB SECURITY/TRADE
- DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES
- HEALTH CARE
- RETIREMENT SECURITY



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HAVE YOU BEEN TO DISTRICT 2'S
PAGE ON FACEBOOK?

www.facebook.com/USWDistrict2

A Message from Director Bolton - continued from page 1

"LIBERATE! Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia". That is just wrong!

It's a childish act and it needs to stop; and the go-along Republicans in the House and Senate sat idly by and refused to check the President's actions. Imagine if President Obama had urged Texas to liberate itself. Mitch McConnell and his minions would never let us hear the end of it.

Now, for the news story that is an encouraging sign as we roll into the fall Presidential election. With Republicans doing their damndest to suppress voters and basking about a so-called Democratic "voter enthusiasm gap", the election was held in the midst of a pandemic, forcing voters to choose between their right to vote and the risk of contracting the deadly Covid-19 virus. In Milwaukee, the number of polling places was reduced from the normal 180 to just 5 because so many poll workers opted not to work due to Covid-19 fears. In spite of all that, the progressive candidate, Jill Karofsky defeated the incumbent Supreme Court candidate by 163,000 votes. That compares to a 6,000 vote margin for the winner of the 2016 election, also held during a presidential primary when both parties had competitive races for the presidential nomination.

When the election was scheduled, nobody had a clue that a global pandemic was going to affect every aspect of life in America; but after it hit, Republicans tried to use public fears to their advantage. First, Democratic Governor Tony Evers asked to delay the election as other governors had done. However, the GOP-controlled legislature refused.

Next, the Governor asked to conduct the election by mail and asked the Senate and assembly to extend the deadline for absentee ballots. Again, Republicans bucked the request. Ironically, at that time, President Trump was attacking voting by mail as corrupt and only benefiting Democrats. The matter went to the federal court where a judge ruled in favor of the Governor. At the last minute, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 4 to 3 vote (Justices voted on party lines), threw the election into chaos, ruling that voting must be in person and that votes received in the mail were required to be postmarked by the election. The purely partisan ruling issue by the court meant thousands of votes that were already sent in without a postmark would not be counted - a fact that benefited the Court's Republican candidate.

While voter suppression is something our courts and political leaders should never resort to, the fact the Court ruled the way it did, confirms something most of us who follow politics were already thinking. Our courts have always been seen as the last bastion of hope for those seeking justice. However, Citizens United, Janus Right to Work, and, now, this decision, are entirely political and fall into a conservative ideology. As such, the Supreme Court can no longer be counted on to give relief to working class families or their issues.

I would like to share an observation regarding Labor's friend, Nancy Pelosi. Speaker Pelosi is on our side. She knows our issues and 99% of the time we don't even have to ask her position on matters that affect us and our Union. In a business that often resembles an "Old Boy's Club", she is as tough as nails and can negotiate with the best of them.

However, the Republicans are dying to win the House back so they can accomplish their political agenda if Trump wins re-election. If the election turns in their favor, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, Union and Bargaining Rights, and free trade are all on the table. To help complete their power grab, Republicans are going to make Pelosi an issue. If you have been listening to Republican legislators lately, you have heard them say that she is an extreme liberal, she possesses a "liberal wish list", and she follows a set of "liberal talking points".

Of course, the GOP is going to disagree with a Democratic leader. We disagreed with Paul Ryan when he was in charge, but do not let yourself be fooled by the Republican rhetoric. Nancy is a fighter; and she is fighting for you. The increased unemployment benefits and their extension of those benefits were issues she fought for. While the guys on the other side of the aisle are fighting to save hedge funds, Ms. Pelosi is fighting to find health insurance for the unemployed. She is the kind of person I want in my corner.

Finally, I want to wrap this up by telling our District 2 Steelworker Healthcare workers how very proud we are of them. While others have been trying to stay away from the dreaded coronavirus, our District 2 heroes are running into the thick of it. Day after day, they put their lives on the lines to help others live. Sometimes they did it without the needed equipment or personal protective gear, but they didn't complain and never gave up. They just sucked it up and pressed on. So, on behalf of our District 2 office and servicing staff, Local Union Officers, and our rank and file members, I want to thank you for the unselfish sacrifices you have made to help others. You are the superheroes society is looking for today.



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



2020 District 2 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

- 8 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 9 **Town Hall Meeting**
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 16 **Town Hall Meeting**
USW Local 1299 Hall, 11424 West Jefferson Avenue • River Rouge, MI
- 17 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Dist. 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 17-19 **AFL-CIO Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil & Human Rights Conf.**
Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave Northwest • Washington, DC
- 21 **Town Hall Meeting**
Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- 21 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Kent Ionia Labor Hall, 918 Benjamin Avenue NE • Grand Rapids, MI
- 21 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI
- 22 **Town Hall Meeting**
Clarion Inn, 3640 East Cork Street • Kalamazoo, MI
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Old Morton Federal Credit Union, 516 Kosciusko • Manistee, MI
- 22 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
USW Local 2-148 Hall, 1201 Gillingham Road • Neenah, WI
- 23 **Town Hall Meeting**
Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport, 5311 South Howell Avenue • Milwaukee, WI
- 24 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 24 **WOS Quarterly Meeting**
Joann Lester Library, 100 Park Street • Nekeosa, WI

FEBRUARY

- 4 **Town Hall Meeting**
Eau Claire Labor Temple, 2233 Birch Street • Eau Claire, WI
- 6 **Town Hall Meeting**
Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1104 S. Oak Avenue, Marshfield, WI
- 11 **Town Hall Meeting**
Holiday Inn, 4079 US-10 • Ludington, MI
- 13 **Town Hall Meeting**
McRae Park Hall, 1301 N 2nd Ave, Alpena, MI 49707
- 18 **Town Hall Meeting**
USW Local 4950 Hall, 1206 Baldwin Avenue • Negaunee, MI
- 25 **LM Review Session**
Milwaukee Labor Council Building, 633 S. Hawley Road • Milwaukee, WI
- 26 **LM Review Session**
Lucky Dog's Labor Temple, 157 S. Green Bay Road • Neenah, WI
- 27 **LM Review Session**
Kronenwetter Village Hall, 1582 Kronenwetter Drive • Kronenwetter, WI
- 28 **LM Review Session**
USW Local 2-21 Hall, 1201 Sheridan Road • Escanaba, MI

MARCH

- 2 **LM Review Session**
USW Local 12075 Hall, 3510 James Savage Road • Midland, MI
- 3 **LM Review Session**
Bungalow Inn, 1100 28th Street • Manistee, MI
- 4 **LM Review Session**
Clarion Inn, 3640 East Cork Street • Kalamazoo, MI
- 5 **LM Review Session**
USW District 2 Southern MI Sub-Office, 20600 Eureka Road, Suite 300 • Taylor, MI
- 10-12 **USW District 2 Collective Bargaining Training**
Four Points by Sheraton - Milwaukee Airport, 5311 South Howell Avenue • Milwaukee, WI
- 23-27 **CANCELLED & POSTPONED until April 2022**
District 2 Council Conference
Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley • 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI

MAY

- 3-8 **CANCELLED & POSTPONED until May 2021**
District 2 WOS Leadership Development Course (Levels I & II)
Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel & Waterpark, 1365 South Main Street • Frankenmuth, MI

Important Notice

We apologize for any inconvenience, but the USW District 2 offices are closed. However, the health and safety of our members and staff is our number one priority.

We are committed to doing our part to prevent the further spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) while still representing our members. If you need assistance, you can still call each office; or, call your Staff Representative.

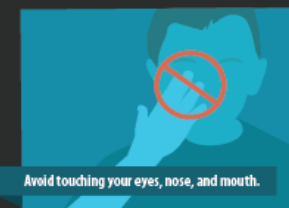
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

11/15/20 • 11/15/20 • 11/15/20

The schedule is designed to assist in planning this year's events. However, there is a possibility dates and/or locations could change due to unforeseen circumstances. Changes and corrections will be made ASAP and updated on the USW District 2 website.

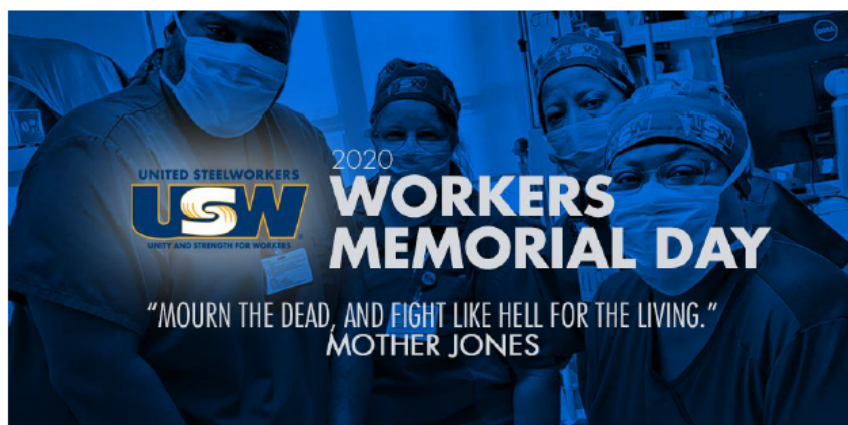


INFOALERT

April 28, 2020

Mourn for the Dead, Fight Like Hell for the Living.

As we reflect today on Workers Memorial Day, we are again reminded of the reality our nation is facing during the Covid-19 pandemic. We know we are not able to gather in person, but we will not let that stop us from memorializing the twenty-nine workers we've lost in USW facilities in the last twelve months. Please [click the image below](https://bit.ly/3aFTWVK) (<https://bit.ly/3aFTWVK>) to join us in remembrance as we again commit to doing all we can to make sure all workers return home to their families in the same condition they left them, and not another name is added to the list of those we lost.



Right now, our members - the essential frontline and health care workers in this country - are in dire need of protection in the workplace. Facing illness and even death from on-the-job exposure to the virus, it has become clear [our government needs to implement appropriate safety standards](https://bit.ly/2vQ0NyM) (<https://bit.ly/2vQ0NyM>). We also know that for those who have found themselves unemployed by no fault of their own during this crisis, the high cost to maintain COBRA benefits is a devastating financial burden for families trying to preserve their vital healthcare coverage. Congressman Bobby Scott (VA) has championed two bills in the House that aim to tackle these issues, and our union is working to move them.

The first, [the COVID-19 Every Worker Protection Act of 2020](https://bit.ly/2YfGF3Q) (<https://bit.ly/2YfGF3Q>) (H.R. 6559) (<https://bit.ly/3aRqgwX>), would require strong, clear, and enforceable workplace health and safety standards by calling on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard. The second, [the Worker Health Coverage Protection Act](https://bit.ly/3alsUNI) (<https://bit.ly/3alsUNI>) (H.R. 6514) (<https://bit.ly/2yT6g7K>), would provide 100% federal financing to cover the full cost of COBRA premiums owed by workers who have lost their jobs, who are furloughed, or who have had their hours reduced as a result of the coronavirus crisis. These bills are common sense, long overdue, and we support them.

Please be ready to act on these two very important bills, which are small steps in the fight to protect the health and safety of all workers. You can find more resources [HERE](https://bit.ly/3eYW2Dx) (<https://bit.ly/3eYW2Dx>). Stay safe and well, Steelworkers.

USW Rapid Response • (412) 562-2291 • <http://www.uswrr.org> • www.facebook.com/USWRapidResponse

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

How Millions of Women Became the Most Essential Workers in America

By Campbell Robertson and Robert Gebeloff • The New York Times, April 18, 2020, 5:00 a.m. ET

One in three jobs held by women has been designated as essential.

Every day, Constance Warren stands behind the cold cuts counter at a grocery store in New Orleans, watching the regular customers come and go.

They thank Ms. Warren and tell her they do not like being stuck indoors, waiting out the epidemic. She sells them honey-smoked turkey and smiles.

It is good to have a job right now, the mixed fortune of being deemed an essential worker. But she wonders whether, once everyday life is safe again, people will remember the role she played when it was not.

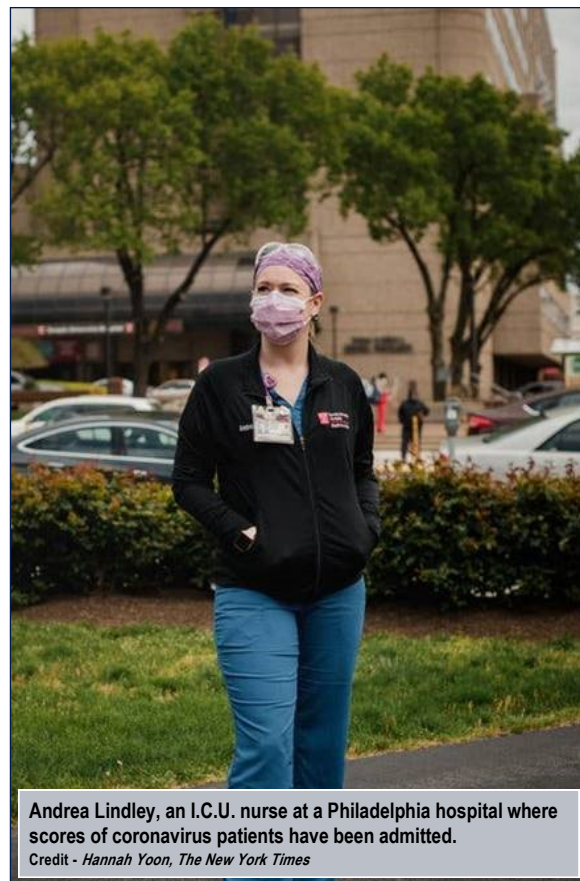
"Don't forget that we were open to serve you in your time of need," she said on a break one recent workday afternoon. "You never know when you might need us again."

From the cashier to the emergency room nurse to the drugstore pharmacist to the home health aide taking the bus to check on her older client, the soldier on the front lines of the current national emergency is most likely a woman.

One in three jobs held by women has been designated as essential, according to a New York Times analysis of census data crossed with the federal government's essential worker guidelines. Nonwhite women are more likely to be doing essential jobs than anyone else.

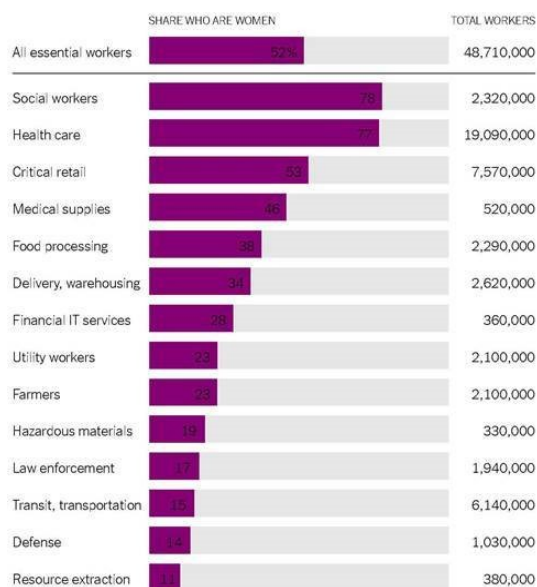
The work they do has often been underpaid and undervalued — an unseen labor force that keeps the country running and takes care of those most in need, whether or not there is a pandemic.

Women make up nearly nine out of 10 nurses and nursing assistants, most respiratory therapists, a majority of pharmacists and the overwhelming majority of pharmacy aides and technicians. More than two-thirds of the workers at grocery store checkouts and fast food counters are women.



Andrea Lindley, an I.C.U. nurse at a Philadelphia hospital where scores of coronavirus patients have been admitted.
Credit - Hannah Yoon, The New York Times

Share of Essential Workers Who Are Women



Source: American Community Survey microdata, 2014-18; ipums.org • By The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/18/us/coronavirus-women-essential-workers.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage>

In normal times, men are a majority of the overall work force. But this crisis has flipped that. In March, the Department of Homeland Security released a memo identifying "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers," an advisory guide for state and federal officials. It listed scores of jobs, suggesting they were too vital to be halted even as cities and whole states were on lockdown. A majority of those jobs are held by women.

Among all male workers, 28 percent have jobs deemed part of this essential work force. Some of the biggest employers of men in the United States are building trades, like construction and carpentry — lines of work that are now, for the most part, on hold.

Men do make up a majority of workers in a number of essential sectors, including law enforcement, transit and public utilities, and millions face serious and unquestionable risk as they head to work every day. But there are simply not as many of these jobs as there are in the industry at the forefront: health care.

There are 19 million health care workers nationwide, nearly three times as many as in

agriculture, law enforcement and the package delivery industry combined.

Long before the outbreak, in an aging and ailing country, the demand for health care was almost limitless. The size of this work force has ballooned over the decades as medical advances extended the lives of the sick and well alike.

There are now four registered nurses for every police officer, and still hospitals raise alarms about nursing shortages. Within this

— Continued on Page 6 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

How Millions of Women Became the Most Essential Workers in America

By Campbell Robertson and Robert Gebeloff • The New York Times, April 18, 2020, 5:00 a.m. ET - continued from page 5

massive, ever-growing and now indispensable part of the economy, nearly four out of five workers are women. This is reflected in another grim statistic: While male doctors and nurses have died on the front lines, a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that women account for 73 percent of the U.S. health care workers who have been infected since the outbreak began.

The nation's health care industry spreads far beyond hospitals, encompassing a vast army of people who tend to the young, old, sick and infirm. This "care work force," said Mignon Duffy, a professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell who studies women and labor, "is part of the infrastructure of our whole society. It holds everything together." Yet it has long been undervalued, she said, a neglect that is as obvious as ever right now, with acute shortages nationwide of basic safety gear.

"But now we're being forced to identify who the essential workers are," Dr. Duffy said. "And guess who they are?"

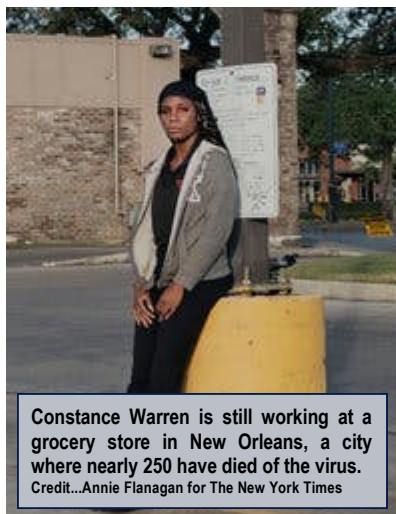
Aurora Ozanick, the 5-year-old daughter of a nurse and a construction worker in Pittsburgh, makes sense of her parents' jobs this way: "Mommy fixes people," she says. "Daddy fixes things."

These days, Bobbi Ozanick — "Mommy" — continues to report to work at the hospital. Her husband, who was laid off when his job site was shut down, stays home with Aurora. Fixing things can wait. This has been hard to digest for both parents.

"The concept of it was one of the weirdest conversations we've ever had," Ms. Ozanick, 33, said. She told her husband that if things got bad, keeping her at work for long hours and putting the health of those around her in jeopardy, he should go with their daughter to a relative's house. He wanted none of that. "His plan is to go apply for what's deemed essential. He used to work in a hospital cafeteria years ago."

But being essential does not at all mean being well compensated or even noticed.

While women have steadily increased their share of high-end health care jobs like surgeons and other physicians, they have also been filling the unseen jobs proliferating on the lowest end of the wage scale, the workers who spend long and little-rewarded days bathing, feeding and medicating some of the most vulnerable people in the country. Of the 5.8 million people working health care jobs that pay less than \$30,000 a year, half are nonwhite and 83 percent are women.



Constance Warren is still working at a grocery store in New Orleans, a city where nearly 250 have died of the virus. Credit...Annie Flanagan for The New York Times

Home health and personal care aides, jobs that earn little more than minimum wage and until recently were even exempt from basic labor protections, are two of the fastest growing occupations in the entire U.S. job market. More than eight in 10 of these aides are women.

"We're still a part of health care and we're not recognized at all," said Pam Ramsey, 56, who has gone years without health insurance working as a home health aide in rural Pennsylvania.

Ms. Ramsey did not set out to do this. In her 20s, she earned a degree from a trade school in auto body and mechanics, one of just three women in her graduating class of 115. But her father was badly hurt working in a coal mine, and the duty of taking care of him fell to her rather than her brothers. She has been taking care of people, paid and unpaid, ever since.

If protective equipment is in dangerously short supply at big city hospitals, it is virtually nonexistent in Ms. Ramsey's job. She goes to work with no gear beyond what she can find at the dollar store. She does not have a formal letter, like many others have, identifying her as an essential worker. A policeman recently stopped and questioned her when she was out buying medicine.

"People don't look at us because we have no license, no certificate, no proof that we're as good as they are," Ms. Ramsey said. But still she goes to work, bringing whatever rubbing alcohol and peroxide she can get her hands on.

Ms. Ramsey is not alone in having to improvise. While some child care centers are still open for the children of essential workers, this is not true everywhere.

And though educators nationwide are spending long and demanding days teaching online, a young student at home needs an adult there, too. (The federal classification of educator jobs is unclear, so they were not included in the analysis of the essential work force; if they had been, the women's share of the work force would have been substantially higher.)

As a result, many single mothers who have essential jobs are also facing the added emergency of 24-hour child care.

"This one is helping watch this one's child while she works the night shift, then she watches hers for the 7-3 shift," said Keshia Williams, 44, a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home in Scranton, Pa., where the staff members — "99.9 percent of them" women — are trying to cover an ever-growing list of rotations left unfilled by infected or quarantined co-workers.

"Now we are apparently essential," Ms. Williams said dryly, before describing the critical lack of protective gear where she works. Some N95 masks recently arrived, but she is limited to one a week, an uneasy regimen given that she spends each morning screening residents for the virus. Still, dealing with people face to face is what drew her to her job in the first place. The pandemic has not changed that.

That millions of care workers are "driven by incentives other than purely economic incentives" is in part why this work has traditionally been so undervalued, said Gabriel Winant, a labor historian at the University of Chicago.

— Continued on Page 7 —

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

How Millions of Women Became the Most Essential Workers in America

By Campbell Robertson and Robert Gebeloff • The New York Times, April 18, 2020, 5:00 a.m. ET - continued from pages 5 & 6

It is a type of work that does not produce an object that can be traded or sold, he said; it is simply work that has to be done. "There is a whole system in place to make us not think of this as critical infrastructure," he said.

Until that system gets a shock.

"I didn't sign up for a pandemic," said Andrea Lindley, 34, an I.C.U. nurse at a Philadelphia hospital where scores of coronavirus patients have been admitted. "But I am not going to walk away when people need me."

Growing up, she wanted to become a doctor, watching her mother come back exhausted and back-sore from long hours as a licensed practical nurse. Health care is harder physical work than people realize — workers in health care and social assistance suffer nonfatal injuries on the job at a rate higher than workers in construction or manufacturing. Ms. Lindley's mother described the job to her this way: "You work too hard and you don't get paid enough."

But Ms. Lindley was attracted to the personal, hands-on practice of nursing. "We are in the rooms way more than the doctors," she said. It is what she still loves about the job. These days, with her husband unable to find carpentry work and her daughter recovering from leukemia, it is also what makes the job so dangerous.

"I have horrible nightmares knowing I'm going into the hospital the next day," she said. She felt a sense of deep relief when, on a recent shift, she was transferred to the burn unit.

Across the state, in southwestern Pennsylvania, Crystal Patterson heads to work. Her stepfather was laid off from his airport job, and her parents are unsure what they will do.

For Ms. Patterson, 30, a home health aide, there is less uncertainty. Yes, she has to manage caring for her son, but there is a client in her 90s who is depending on her. So for around \$10 an hour, she stays on the job. There is a fundamental question before her, one faced by countless other women keeping the country alive: If she does not do this, who will?

"As a woman, this is nothing new to me," Ms. Patterson said. "That's how it's always been in this country: 'When we're sick, get us through this.'"

Katy Reckdahl contributed reporting.

Methodology: The New York Times identified essential workers by applying the federal government's essential worker guidelines with industry and occupation codes contained in U.S. Census American Community Survey microdata, 2014-18, obtained from ipums.org. In some cases, all workers in a category, such as law enforcement, were tagged as critical, but in other cases, such as retail, only workers for stores that have widely been allowed to stay open, such as supermarkets and drugstores, were included.

Robert Gebeloff is a reporter specializing in data analysis. He works on in-depth stories where numbers help augment traditional reporting. @gebeloffny

USW District 2 Rapid Response - Submitted by Sue Browne, Rapid Response Coordinator



After cancelling two local union meetings because of COVID-19, Local 204 members who work at Mid-Michigan Medical Center took the money they would have spent at the meetings and put it to good use. They purchased doughnuts, cookies, orange juice and milk to give to other essential workers in their area.

On Friday, April 17th, Local Union Rapid Response Coordinator, Terri Parks, delivered the items to the local police, fire and emergency medical service workers.

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

How U.S. Cities Tried to Stop the 1918 Flu Pandemic - *The History Channel.com*



A devastating second wave of the Spanish Flu hit American shores in the summer of 1918, as returning soldiers infected with the disease spread it to the general population—especially in densely-crowded cities. Without a vaccine or approved treatment plan, it fell to local mayors and health officials to improvise plans to safeguard the safety of their citizens. With pressure to appear patriotic at wartime and with a censored media downplaying the disease's spread, many made tragic decisions.

Philadelphia's response was too little, too late. Dr. Wilmer Krusen, director of Public Health and Charities for the city, insisted mounting fatalities were not the "Spanish flu," but rather just the normal flu. So on September 28, the city went forward with a Liberty Loan parade attended by tens of thousands of Philadelphians, spreading the disease like wildfire. In just 10 days, over 1,000 Philadelphians were dead, with another 200,000 sick. Only then did the city close saloons and theaters. By March 1919, over 15,000

Help Bar Deadly Influenza From Seattle

By DR. J. D. TUTTLE,
State Health Commissioner

Don't get into crowds, don't cough or sneeze without using a handkerchief, get plenty of fresh air, and when the symptoms of a cold appear isolate yourself as far as possible from others.

By SURGEON GENERAL RUPERT BLUE,
U. S. Public Health Service

First there is a chill, then fever, headache, backache, reddening of the eyes, aches all over the body and general prostration. Persons so attacked should go to bed at once and call a physician.

NIGHT EXTRA

FOR INFORMATION
OF OUR READERS
THIS PAPER
CANNOT BE HAD FREE
CALL MAIN 3090

The Seattle Daily Times

12 PAGES
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, SATURDAY EVENING, OCT. 5, 1918.
Price 10 CENTS

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SHOWS CLOSED

EPIDEMIC PUTS BAN ON ALL PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

MR. LOVERING'S COMMENT

Seems to agree. By Liberty Bell

SEATTLE, Oct. 5.—The health commissioner today issued orders closing all churches, schools, theaters, and other public assemblies, to prevent the spread of influenza.

The health commissioner, Dr. J. D. Tuttle, said that the city health department had received reports of influenza cases in several parts of the city, and that the disease was spreading rapidly.

Dr. Tuttle said that the health department had received reports of influenza cases in several parts of the city, and that the disease was spreading rapidly.

MAJOR AND CITY HEALTH OFFICER WILL PERMIT NEWS PAPERS GATHERING IN COURT AID.

The health department today issued orders closing all churches, schools, theaters, and other public assemblies, to prevent the spread of influenza.

WE CAN'T DRAW ON OUR IMAGINATION FOR EXPENSES TO BERLIN! PUT OVER THAT 4th Liberty Loan

AMERICANS AND FRENCH SMASH FOE

Associated Press Summary

FOURTH OF SEPTEMBER NEWS OF THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH FORCES IN THE WESTERN FRONT, WHOSE ADVANCEMENT IN THE LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE YEAR, WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE YEAR.

citizens of Philadelphia had lost their lives.

St. Louis, Missouri, was different: Schools and movie theaters closed and public gatherings were banned. Consequently, the peak mortality rate in St. Louis was just one-eighth of Philadelphia's death rate during the peak of the pandemic.

Citizens in San Francisco were fined \$5—a significant sum at the time—if they were caught in public without masks and charged with disturbing the peace.



Spanish Flu Pandemic Ends

By the summer of 1919, the flu pandemic came to an end, as those that were infected either died or developed immunity.

Almost 90 years later, in 2008, researchers announced they'd discovered what made the 1918 flu so deadly: A group of three genes enabled the virus to weaken a victim's bronchial tubes and lungs and clear the way for bacterial pneumonia.

Since 1918, there have been several other influenza pandemics, although none as deadly. A flu pandemic from 1957 to 1958 killed around 2 million people worldwide, including some 70,000 people in the United States, and a pandemic from 1968 to 1969 killed approximately 1 million people, including some 34,000 Americans.

More than 12,000 Americans perished during the H1N1 (or “swine flu”) pandemic that occurred from 2009 to 2010. The novel coronavirus pandemic of 2020 is spreading around the world as countries race to find a cure for COVID 19 and citizens shelter in place in an attempt to avoid spreading the disease, which is particularly deadly because many carriers are asymptomatic for days before realizing they are infected.

Each of these modern day pandemics brings renewed interest in and attention to the Spanish Flu, or “forgotten pandemic,” so-named because its spread was overshadowed by the deadliness of WWI and covered up by news blackouts and poor record-keeping.



For Immediate Release: April 20, 2020

Contact: Jess Kamm Broomell, (412) 562-2444, jkamm@usw.org

USW: Administration Undermines Buy American, Hire American

(PITTSBURGH) – *United Steelworkers (USW) International President Thomas M. Conway issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's Sunday night announcement that it will delay collecting certain tariffs for 90 days:*

"Manufacturing workers across the country woke up this morning to learn that the administration granted importers of certain foreign goods a three-month delay in paying the tariffs they owed on them.

"This was a gift that major importers and global businesses had been demanding for weeks but was repeatedly disavowed by the administration, including by the president himself.

"It's no wonder that the announcement of this decision was made at 8:30 Sunday night when most Americans were huddled at home protecting themselves, their families, friends and communities, seeking to stem the continued spread of COVID-19.

"Auto workers in Michigan whose plants are either shuttered or have been repurposed to make ventilators for COVID-19 victims, glassworkers in Ohio, workers making shoes in Wisconsin, and millions of other workers in every state, are questioning why importers are being given this gift when they have been told that this administration's and this president's priority is to 'Buy American.'

"They wonder why importers of Japanese cars can delay tariff payment for 90 days when many of those same importers also received loans which may very well be forgiven. Millions of other workers will wonder the same thing about the products they make that still must compete with foreign imports: online, on retail shelves and in showrooms.

"Many of the products included in this tariff holiday are already here, and importers knew they had a duty to pay. They claimed they needed this break to assist with cash flow.

"But millions of retail workers who have already been laid off will be hard pressed to find any benefit in this new 'liquidity' as they wait for unemployment benefits and wonder how they're going to put food on the table, make their rent or mortgage payments or afford health care.

"We appreciate the fact that this decision will not apply to the tariffs that are the result of trade enforcement measures. We fought for that. But many other domestic producers are also facing tremendous competitive pressures from importers, especially those who have outsourced their production.

"The administration should not have tried to hide this decision by announcing it on a Sunday evening. Instead, the president should have made the announcement himself, during the light of day, so he could explain why he would do something that runs so antithetical to his claimed priority to 'Buy American, Hire American.'"

###

The USW represents 850,000 men and women employed in metals, mining, pulp and paper, rubber, chemicals, glass, auto supply and the energy-producing industries, along with a growing number of workers in health care, public sector, higher education, tech and service occupations.

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms* can include

FEVER



COUGH



*Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

SHORTNESS OF BREATH



cdc.gov/COVID19-symptoms

CS 315252-A March 20, 2020, 12:51PM

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

AP-NORC poll: Few Americans support easing virus protections

By Thomas Beaumont and Hannah Fingerhut • AP News - April 22, 2020



WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans remain overwhelmingly in favor of stay-at-home orders and other efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus, a new survey finds, even as small pockets of attention-grabbing protests demanding the lifting of such restrictions emerge nationwide.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research also finds that a majority of Americans say it won't be safe to lift social distancing guidelines anytime soon, running counter to the choice of a handful of governors who have announced plans to ease within days the public health efforts that have upended daily life and roiled the global economy.

More than a month after schoolyards fell silent, restaurant tables and bar stools emptied, and waves from a safe distance replaced hugs and handshakes, the country largely believes restrictions on social interaction to curb the spread of the virus are appropriate.

Only 12% of Americans say the measures where they live go too far. About twice as many people, 26%, believe the limits don't go far enough. The majority of Americans — 61% — feel the steps taken by government officials to prevent infections of COVID-19 in their area are about right.

About 8 in 10 Americans say they support measures that include requiring Americans to stay in their homes and limiting gatherings to 10 people or fewer — numbers that have largely held steady over the past few weeks.

A majority of Americans think restrictions to combat COVID-19 are appropriate

A new AP-NORC poll shows a majority of Americans say restrictions in their area to prevent the spread of coronavirus are about right, but Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say they go too far.

Do you think the restrictions to prevent the spread of coronavirus go too far, don't go far enough, or are about right?

- Democrats** - Are about right: 62%
Don't go far enough: 63%
Go too far: 5%
- Republicans** - Are about right: 59%
Don't go far enough: 19%
Go too far: 22%
- All adults** - Are about right: 61%
Don't go far enough: 26%
Go too far: 12%



Results based on interviews with 1,057 U.S. adults conducted April 16-20. The margin of error is ± 4.0 percentage points for the full sample. Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

"We haven't begun to flatten the curve yet. We're still ramping up in the number of cases and the number of deaths," said Laura McCullough, 47, a college physics professor from Menomonie, Wisconsin. "We're still learning about what it can do, and if we're still learning about what it can do, this isn't going to be the time to let people go out and get back to their life."

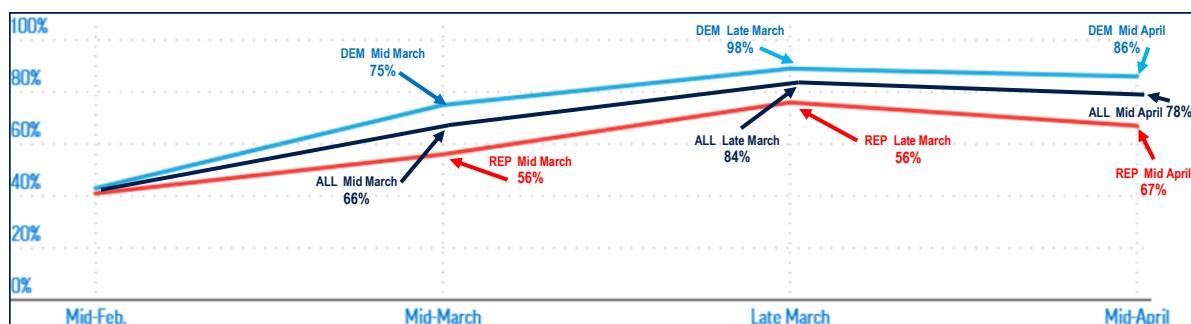
While the poll reveals that the feelings behind the protests that materialized in the past week or so in battleground states such as Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are held by only a small fraction of Americans, it does find signs that Republicans are, like President Donald Trump, becoming more bullish on reopening aspects of public life.

Widespread worry among American adults about coronavirus infection

A new AP-NORC poll shows that an overwhelming share of Americans continue to be worried about the coronavirus following a spike in late March. Democrats still tend to feel more worry than Republicans.

Chart at Right:

% at least somewhat concerned that they or a family member will be infected with the coronavirus.



— Continued on Page 12—

"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"

AP-NORC poll: Few Americans support easing virus protections

By Thomas Beaumont and Hannah Fingerhut • AP News - April 22, 2020 - continued from page 11

Just 36% of Republicans now say they strongly favor requiring Americans to stay home during the outbreak, compared with 51% who said so in late March. While majorities of Democrats and Republicans think current restrictions where they live are about right, Republicans are roughly four times as likely as Democrats to think restrictions in place go too far — 22% to 5%.

More Democrats than Republicans, meanwhile, think restrictions don't go far enough, 33% to 19%.

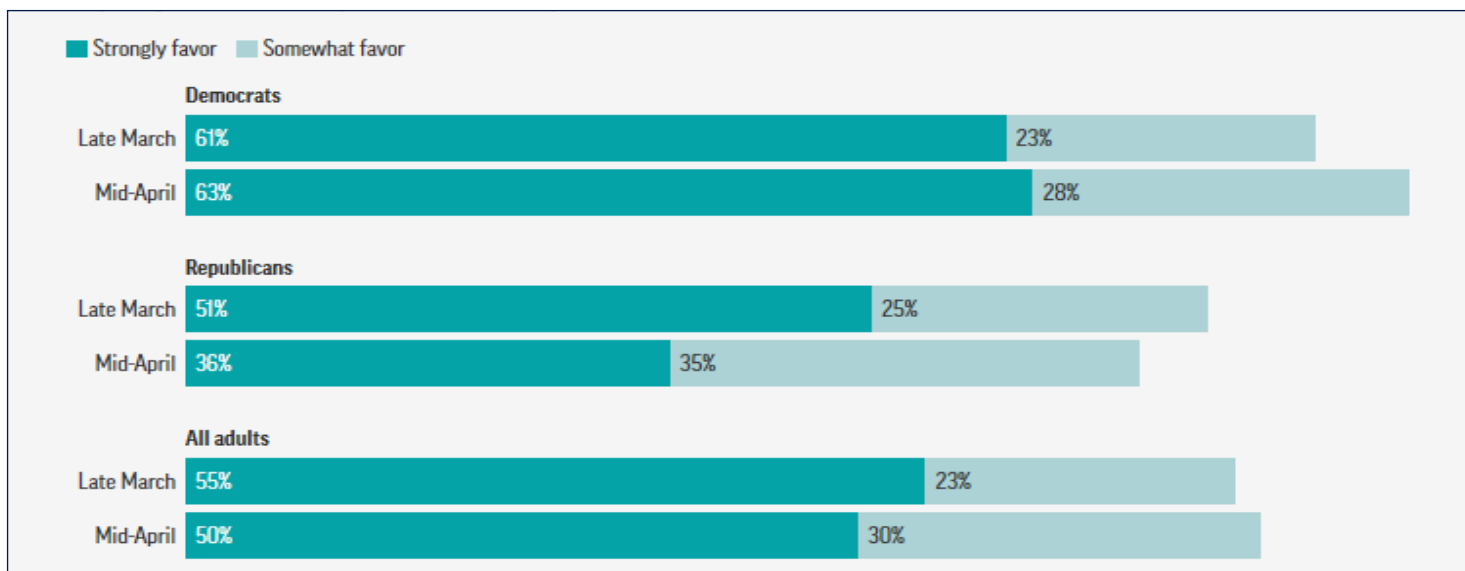
"They'll be lifted, but there are still going to be sick people running around," said 66-year-old Lynn Sanchez, a Democrat and retired convenience store manager from Jacksonville, Texas, where Gov. Greg Abbott has reopened state parks and plans to announce further relaxations next week. "And we're going to have another pandemic."

More than 45,000 people in the United States have died from COVID-19, while 22 million have applied for unemployment benefits since March. It's that economic cost that has led some governors to follow Trump's lead and start talking about allowing some shuttered businesses to reopen, including in Georgia, where many businesses — including gyms, bowling alleys and tattoo parlors — can do so starting Friday. Restaurants there can resume dine-in service next week.

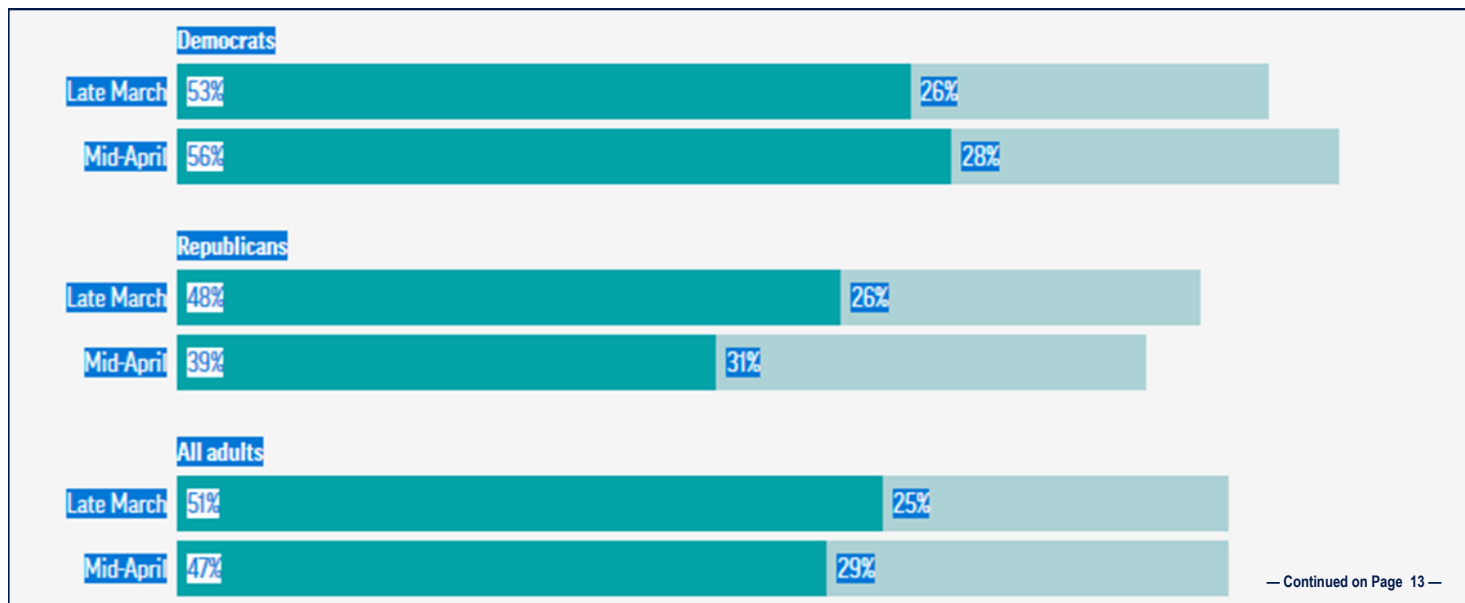
Majorities of Americans favor restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A new AP-NORC poll shows large majorities of Americans continue to support requiring Americans to stay in their homes and limit gatherings, but support among Republicans has declined in the past few weeks.

Requiring Americans to stay in their homes except for essential errands



Requiring bars and restaurants to close

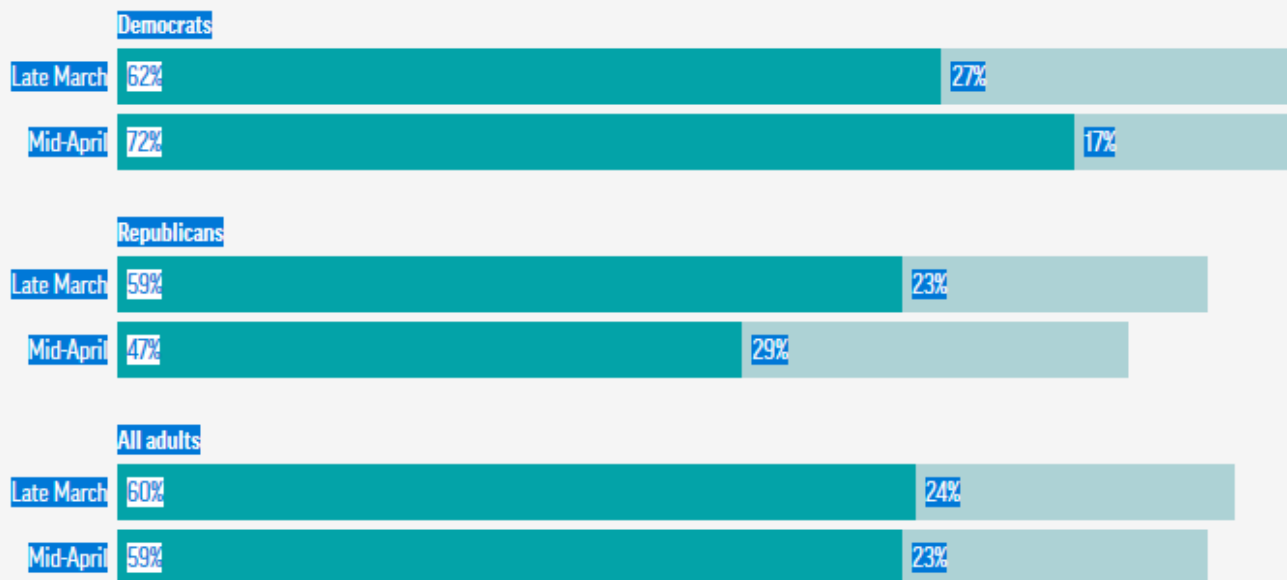


— Continued on Page 13 —

AP-NORC poll: Few Americans support easing virus protections

By Thomas Beaumont and Hannah Fingerhut • AP News - April 22, 2020 - continued from pages 11 & 12

AP-NORC poll: Few Americans support easing virus protections
Requiring Americans to limit gatherings to 10 people or fewer



Results based on interviews with 1,057 U.S. adults conducted April 16-20. The margin of error is ± 4.0 percentage points for the full sample.

Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Yet the survey finds that few Americans — 16% — think it's very or extremely likely that their areas will be safe enough in a few weeks for the restrictions to be lifted. While 27% think it's somewhat likely, a majority of Americans — 56% — say conditions are unlikely to be safe in a few weeks to start lifting the current restrictions.

"If we try too hard to restart the economy prematurely, there will be waves of reinfection," said 70-year-old retired medical equipment salesman Goble Floyd, of Bonita Springs, Florida. "I don't think the economy or life will get back to normal until there's a vaccine. It just seems this is so seriously contagious."

The emerging partisan differences are apparent. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp is a Republican and unwavering Trump supporter. GOP lawmakers in Wisconsin filed suit Tuesday against the state's Democratic governor after he ordered most nonessential businesses to remain closed until May 26.

The poll finds 59% of Republicans say it's at least somewhat likely that their areas will be safe enough for reopening in just a few weeks, compared with 71% of Democrats who say it is unlikely. Still, even among Republicans, just 27% say that's very likely.

"I haven't met one person at the protests that disagrees with the fact that we need to self-quarantine until April 30," said Matt Seely, a spokesman for the Michigan Conservative Coalition, which sponsored an automobile-based protest at the state's capitol in Lansing last week. "Nobody wants to do the wrong thing. But the solution is not to stay in your home until the last case of COVID is gone."

The AP-NORC poll of 1,057 adults was conducted April 16-20 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.0 percentage points. Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later were interviewed online or by phone.



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"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"



April 20, 2020

Congress Has More Work to Do.

We know [working people are the backbone of this country](#), and this crisis has turned the lives of our members upside down. Some are working from home to do their part to keep our communities safe while others risk their own lives upholding the dignity of life in health care facilities with inadequate resources. Many continue to work under uncertain conditions to keep our country supplied and moving during this crisis. Some have suffered the devastating blow of a lay-off or closure.

Congress has offered some relief to folks with the [last trio of bills](#) they passed, *but we know that much was missing and more is needed*. Last week, [our union sent a letter to Congress](#), urging them to include:

Aid to Workers –

- Congress must fully use the Defense Production Act through administrative action or [through federal legislation](#).
- Ensure workers who are on strike or lockout receive federal unemployment benefits pre-empting state laws limiting access to benefits.
- [Fully fund COBRA benefits for laid off workers](#) until the economy recovers to pre-recession levels and ensure all workers, no matter the size or type of employer, receive paid sick leave and FMLA expansions. See what we are working on at the state level [HERE](#).
- Require an OSHA emergency temporary standard to ensure there are enforceable workplace health and safety protections for everyone who is still working.
- Improve workers' ability to negotiate with their employers through collective bargaining for protections during the pandemic.

Aid to Retirees, Companies, and the Economy –

- Provide direct aid and support to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and not underfund the Social Security system through inefficient payroll tax cuts.
- Ensure the Federal Government verifies maximum accountability of taxpayer funds by making sure companies that receive aid don't move business overseas and they abide by our collective bargaining agreements.
- Provide aid to state and local governments and to the [U.S. Postal Service](#) that ensures continued operation of vital public services.
- We don't want to stop medical supplies from entering the country, but must defend current tariffs on other goods so other countries don't flood our markets while our workplaces are not operating due to the pandemic.

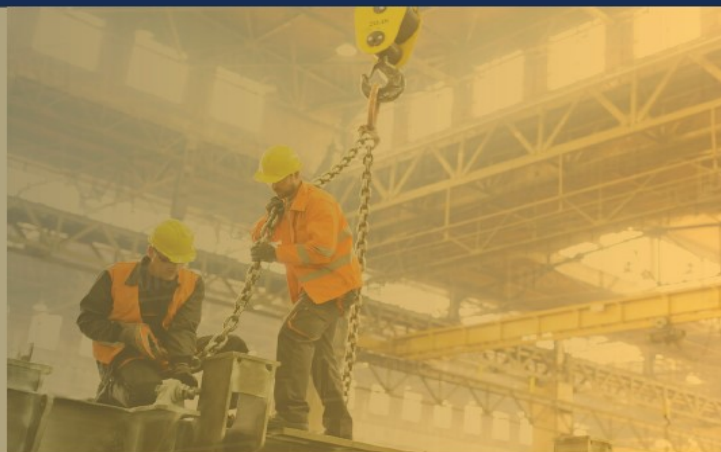
We've been getting a lot of questions about how to stay safe at work if you're considered essential and what you qualify for if you've lost your job because of COVID-19. To help with that, we [have put together many resources](#) for you that are being updated as we get new information. You can find those [HERE](#).

You're keeping our nation going – doing the jobs that really matter, making the things we need the most. [Please take a moment to listen to this message of gratitude from International President, Tom Conway](#). As Congress continues negotiations on additional stimulus bills, please be ready to act to ensure our members, and all workers, are represented and Congress includes our demands.

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Visit **FreeCollege.USW.org**
or call **888-590-9009**



"GO BUILD OUR UNION!"