

Council President Clarke
City Hall, Room 494
Philadelphia, PA 19107
darrell.clarke@phila.gov

Dear Council President Clarke,

As Philadelphia City Council approaches the end of this legislative session, we urge you to support Bill No. 200328 which amends the Philadelphia Code by adding a new Chapter, entitled "Employee Protections in Connection with COVID-19 Emergency Health Order."

This pandemic has already claimed the lives of over one thousand Philadelphians. Sadly, an unknown number of these victims contracted the virus while at work. More can be done to protect workers from COVID-19.

As we move toward gradually reopening our economy, it is essential that Philadelphia City Council empowers workers to protect themselves, their families and the public health by passing this legislation. Across the country we have already learned that workplaces can easily become sites of contagion. **A single workplace where public health orders are violated could lead to a full blown resurgence of community spread.**

Governor Wolf and Mayor Kenney's executive orders have created clear standards for employers to follow such as providing masks to employees and frequently cleaning and disinfecting high touch areas. But if workers are not protected from retaliation for reporting violations of these public health orders, they may choose to stay quiet out of fear, threatening to undo the progress that our city has made in controlling the virus.

Bill No. 200328 does not create any new health orders for businesses to follow. In fact, for all businesses currently obeying the COVID-19 related public health orders, this legislation will require no change in their practices. In the case that a business is operating in violation a public health order, it is likely that employees will be the first to know. **This bill would prohibit retaliation of any kind against all Philadelphia workers who report or disclose violations of a public health order in their workplace. It also would prohibit retaliation if workers decline to work in conditions that they reasonably believe to be illegally dangerous and unhealthy as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health or Philadelphia Department of Public Health.** These protections are necessary to protect the public health and prevent the spread of the virus.

Our organizations represent tens of thousands of workers across almost every industry in Philadelphia. We thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and urge you to do everything in your power to pass Bill No. 200328 before the end of this legislative session.

Yours,

Rosslyn Wuchinich, President, UNITE HERE Local 274

Patrick Eiding, President, Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO

Richard Hooker Jr., Secretary Treasurer & Principal Officer, Teamsters Local 623

Erin Kramer, Executive Director, OnePennsylvania

Matthew Yarnell, President, SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania

Gabe Morgan, Vice President SEIU 32BJ PA/DE State Director

Maureen May, President, PASNAP

Joe Coccio, Secretary Treasurer, TWU Local 234

Shane Reilly, Secretary Treasurer and Business Manager, Teamsters Local 115

Jed Dodd, Vice President BMWED-Teamsters

Chris Woods, President, National Union of Hospital & Health Care Employees, District 1199C, AFSCME

Frank Halbherr, President, AFSCME Local 1637

Junior Brainard, Co-President Faculty and Staff Federation of the Community College of Philadelphia, AFT Local 2026

Sarah Apt, President, Alliance of Charter School Employees, AFT Local 6056

Steve Newman, President, Temple Association of University Professionals, AFT Local 4531

Nadia Hewka, Supervising Attorney, Employment Unit, Community Legal Services

Samuel Jones, Director, Restaurant Opportunities Center of Pennsylvania

Nicole Kligerman, Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance PA

Brenda Dawson, President/CEO, PathWays PA

Marilyn Arwood, Chair, Philadelphia DSA

Maegan Llerena, Executive Director, Make The Road PA

SEIU Pennsylvania State Council

Women's Law Project

Coalition to Respect Every Worker

Coalition for Restaurant Safety and Health