



Labor & Employment Issues Client Alert

Pitta LLP
For Clients
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**“We believe in the ideas of family, mutuality,
the sharing of benefits and burdens
for the good of all, feeling one another’s pain,
sharing one another’s blessing
recognizing that at the heart of the matter
we are bound to each other.”**

-Mario M. Cuomo-

ANTI-UNION MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CALL ON AFL-CIO AND AFFILIATES TO STOP COLLECTING UNION DUES FROM UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

Congresswoman Virginia Foxx, ranking member of the Committee on Education and Labor and Congressman Tim Walberg, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions wrote AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka a [3-page letter](#) asking that the AFL-CIO and its affiliate unions stop collecting union dues from unemployed workers. The letter also calls upon the AFL-CIO and its affiliates to refrain from dues checkoff from the paychecks of the employees who work at businesses receiving federal loans created by Congress to help employers retain their employees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Congressmembers Foxx and Walberg are members of the House minority caucus with a history of anti-union sentiments and poor labor voting records. According to the AFL-CIO Legislative Scorecards, Rep. Foxx has a lifetime labor voting record of 8 percent while Rep. Walberg has a lifetime voting record of 13 percent. Both Rep. Foxx and Walberg cheered the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Janus v. AFSCME* as a victory for “individual freedom.”

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, several unions have worked to provide members’ dues relief. On April 10, 2020 the District Council Carpenters and the Board of Directors of the Carpenters Contractor Alliance of Metropolitan New York announced a relief measure that absorbs second quarter dues for all active members as of April 1, 2020. The union provided members that paid their dues in advance with a credit.

The AFL-CIO and its affiliates have also been instrumental in passing COVID-19 economic relief bills which included the Paycheck Protection Plan which provides employers an incentive to keep their workers on the payroll, along with a provision that provides unemployed workers with an additional \$600 in unemployment benefits. Unions such as UNITE-HERE have worked to ensure that employers put into place safety measures for their workers to prevent COVID-19 infections as the economy reopens.

The AFL-CIO has not responded to the letter from Congressmembers Foxx and Walberg yet.

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