

VIA E-MAIL

December 3, 2020

To All Governors in the United States:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I ask that you prioritize our essential frontline workers in meat processing, grocery stores, and health care when distributing the COVID-19 vaccine.

UFCW members throughout the food chain have been on the frontline of this pandemic. These workers have been risking their health and safety to ensure that our nation's food supply is safe, grocery store shelves are stocked, and pharmacies are distributing medication.

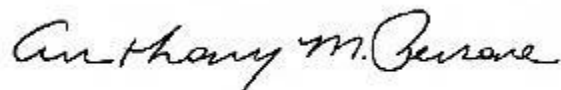
To date, at least 350 UFCW members have died of COVID-19, and over 48,000 members have been exposed or gotten sick with the virus. With our members and their sacrifice in mind, we call on state leaders such as yourself to ensure that our members are second in line to receive a safe and proven COVID-19 vaccine.

We agree with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations to prioritize health care personnel and long-term care facilities in Phase 1a of vaccine distribution. We have urged ACIP to prioritize grocery, meatpacking, food processing, and pharmacy in Phase 1b for COVID-19 vaccine access. The administration must recognize the vital role these essential workers serve by ensuring that they are among the first to receive access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

America's grocery, meatpacking, and food processing workers have been on the frontlines of this deadly pandemic since day one, putting themselves in harm's way to feed our families during this crisis. UFCW is calling on Governors to prioritize these brave men and women for early access to the COVID-19 vaccine immediately after health care workers. We also ask that any plans to distribute the vaccine should include consultation with the companies and the union to make sure that our members have a sense of being protected during this process.

Protecting our country's food workers is essential to keeping our communities safe and we look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,



International President