



AFL-CIO

AMERICA'S UNIONS

**American Federation
of Labor and
Congress of Industrial
Organizations**

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June 7, 2022

Ms. Gail McGovern
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross
430 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. McGovern:

As Presidents of the International Unions represented within the Coalition of American Red Cross Unions, we want to convey to you our concerns over ARC's adversarial approach to contract negotiations. We recently met as a group to discuss the deteriorating bargaining situation at the Red Cross, and we want to assure you we are dedicated to the success of our coalition of unions in working with you. We hope you are similarly motivated and that we can work in partnership.

At issue is access to high-quality, affordable health care and securing a competitive wage agreement that attracts and retains workers dedicated to the mission of the American Red Cross. Our members across the nation put their lives at risk and showed up for work throughout a pandemic while maintaining the nation's blood supply. These workers struggle with the necessities of daily life and depend on quality, affordable health insurance. Many simply cannot afford the high deductible plans proposed by ARC.

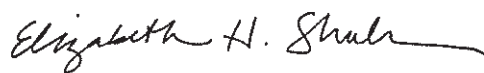
In 2015 we formed this Coalition to work collaboratively with ARC management and jointly address problems. Affordable health insurance was a key focus of that collaboration. Sadly, it now appears that the Red Cross is no longer committed to providing affordable health insurance despite the manageable financial impact a replacement plan with similar coverage would have. Yet in 2020-21, our members who work for ARC put it all on the line, weathering a pandemic while maintaining the nation's blood supply.

The Red Cross is not only putting its workers at risk by attempting to force them onto high deductible health plans and understaffing its blood drives, but it is also putting its reputation at risk. With unsafe working conditions and the threat of unaffordable healthcare, ARC risks not being able to recruit or retain qualified staff.

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The settlement of this contract requires an agreement that maintains access to high quality and affordable insurance, addresses the staffing crisis highlighted by frontline employees, and includes a fair agreement on wages. This agreement will benefit Red Cross workers, ensure the sustainability of the nation's blood supply, and help to fulfill the mission of The American Red Cross at large. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth H. Shuler
President



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