



## SHORT CUTS

### Tradesman returns to print editions

As you can see, *The Building Tradesman* has returned to publishing a print edition. We were able to overcome issues involved with the COVID-19 crisis that prevented us from printing two of our regularly scheduled editions in the month of April.

We did, however, publish E-editions that can be found on our website, [www.michiganbuildingtrades.org](http://www.michiganbuildingtrades.org).

### CDC too loose with COVID work rules?

WASHINGTON (PAI) – The latest federal guidance to “essential” workers on whether they should go back to their jobs or not, after prior layoffs due to the battle against the coronavirus pandemic, endangers their health and safety in the name of continued business operations, the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH) and a coalition of academic specialists on the issue say.

It's so bad, says NACOSH co-Executive Director Marcy Goldstein-Gelb, that “this unsound guidance sends the message to our critical frontline workers that their government and employers view them as expendable.”

The Centers for Disease Control issued the guidance April 9, superseding its prior advice. CDC now says such essential “critical infrastructure workers” could go back on the job as long as they were pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, even if they had been exposed to a virus victim within the prior 48 hours.

CDC “fails to protect essential workers” and its new advice “is weaker than previous guidance, and is not based on scientific evidence. Reports of essential workers dying on the job from the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the need for additional protections, not less,” NACOSH and its allies said.

CDC said essential infrastructure workers include law enforcement workers, hazmat workers, some construction workers, and workers in a host of other areas.

“To ensure continuity of operations of essential functions, CDC advises critical infrastructure workers may be permitted to continue work following potential exposure to COVID-19, provided they remain asymptomatic and additional precautions are implemented to protect them and the community,” CDC said.

“A potential exposure means being a household contact or having close contact within six feet of an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19. The timeframe for having contact with an individual includes the period of time of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.”

But if the asymptomatic essential worker is exposed to someone with the coronavirus, the worker should still have their temperatures taken daily, wear masks, monitor themselves while on the job, maintain social distance, and clean and disinfect workplaces, CDC said. If they get sick, bosses should immediately send them home. That gives too much leeway in the fight against the pandemic, says NACOSH, the nationwide advocate for workers on safety and health issues.

CDC instead should yank that guidance and substitute even stronger protections for workers, NACOSH said.

—Mark Gruenberg (PAI)

### Quotable

“In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on.”

—Robert Frost, 1874-1963



THE NEW PROMEDICA Charles and Virginia Hickman Hospital is being erected on a former golf course in Adrian Twp. Managed by Lothrop, the project is expected to be complete in early June.

## New Promedica hospital the right remedy for aging facilities

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

ADRIAN TWP. — Lenawee County is losing a golf course, but is gaining a beautiful new hospital.

Currently wrapping up construction along M-52 is the new Promedica Charles and Virginia Hickman Hospital, which is being erected on a 130-acre campus on land that was once the former site of the Mission Pointe Golf Course.

The campus will house a 58-bed acute care facility, and include private patient rooms an emergency center, an inpatient and outpatient surgery center, ancillary services such as radiology, blood draw, cardiac and pulmonary rehab and infusion; a medical office building with shell space for future expansion; a recreation building for therapy; the Center for Autism; and a health and wellness teaching farm that will allow community collaboration.

“The new campus will truly be transformational for our patients, visitors and staff,” said Julie Yaroch, DO, president of ProMedica Bixby and Herrick Hospitals. “We’re honored to continue serving this community and look forward to providing access to a variety of healthcare services all in one location.”

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MUDDING SEAMS ON ceiling in a second floor lobby of the Promedica Hospital project in Adrian is Bryan Stone of Michigan Painters and Allied Trades IM-Local 514. He works for OCM Contractors.



TRIMMING OUT a sink faucet on the third floor of the new Promedica Hospital in Adrian is Jake Jondro of Plumber and Pipe Fitters Local 671. He's employed by Monroe Plumbing and Heating. The photos were taken prior to the onset of the COVID-19 quarantine.

## AFL-CIO President Trumka: Trump, OSHA 'AWOL' on safety during crisis

By Mark Gruenberg  
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) — Saying GOP President Donald Trump “has made this crisis worse,” organized labor “must do what the federal government has refused to do: Protect America’s workers” during the coronavirus pandemic, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka says.

In an April 21 telephone press

conference on the pandemic, that means advocating for and pushing through strong worker safeguards in both laws and regulatory actions, he adds.

It also means demanding Congress order the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to safeguard workers through an emergency standard mandating company worker protection plans. A top pro-worker

lawmaker, House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott, D-Va., introduced such legislation the same day.

And it means complete bans on retaliation against workers who blow the whistle on unsafe employers, Trumka said, adding “workers should have the right to refuse to go to work if they believe it’s unsafe to do so.”

OSHA, the Mine Safety and

Health Administration and the National Institute on Occupational Safety and Health “have been AWOL” in the coronavirus fight, Trumka said. All are charged with protecting worker health. Trump’s budgets, which Congress repeatedly rejected, cut money from all three. But dollars haven’t increased, except to cover inflation, either.

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## Vital COVID contribution from sheet metal unions, contractors...

### Little metal strips a big deal for mask-making

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Of all the big things we humans are doing to overcome the COVID-19 virus — quarantining, building ventilators, researching a vaccine — the small things can make a big difference, too.

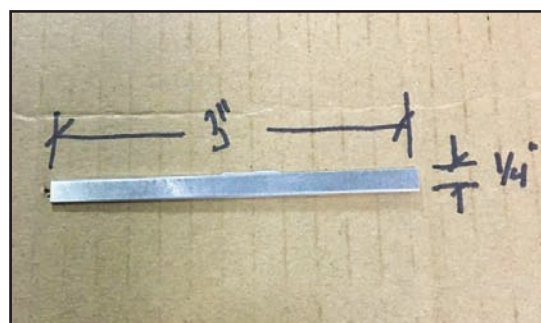
A case in point are the metal aluminum nose strips that are being fabricated by SMART union members and sheet metal contractors in Michigan and around the country. The strips are being manufactured and donated by unions and contractors so they can be sewn into facemasks, ensuring a proper fit to help people avoid the coronavirus.

“As health care workers and first responders across the United States continue to face critical shortages of face masks and other protective equipment, members of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) are collaborating with union contractors to produce and donate metal nose strips for the millions of masks being made by volunteer groups across the country,” said a statement by SMART. “The thin and flexible metal strips are critical to

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OPERATING A LASER to cut metal strips for masks is Sheet Metal Workers Local 7 member Jakob Morris. He's employed at the W. Soules shop in Kalamazoo. At right is the strip that's being cut for use to help form masks to the nose of medical personnel and others.



## Michigan waits in painful holding pattern for COVID health threat to diminish

By Marty Mulcahy  
Editor

Michigan’s month-to-month decline of 2,300 construction jobs from February to March 2020 — one of the steepest drops in the country — is only a precursor at what is expected to be a horror show of industry job losses here and across the country.

Based on U.S. Labor Department numbers released April 17, the Associated General Contractors of America showed that Michigan’s relatively light drop of 1 percent in jobs from those two months still ranked us among the worst (No. 48) among the states in percentage job loss in the construction industry. But the numbers of course, don’t fully take into account the impact of the COVID-19 virus on construction in Michigan’s since mid-March, where a mostly “non-essential” designation of the industry by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and subsequent shutdown rules have severely undercut employment opportunities.

A more telling number comes

‘Depression-level’ unemployment in Michigan still may have room to rise

By Mark Gruenberg  
PAI Staff Writer

WASHINGTON (PAI) — Some 5.25 million more people filed initial claims for jobless benefits in the week ending April 11, the Labor Department reported on April 16. Those claims — added to the millions filed in March — wiped out all gains in U.S. jobs since the end of the Great Recession a decade ago, several analysts pointed out.

The jobless rate shot up, too. Between March 13, when President Trump declared a national emergency due to the COVID virus, and April 16, 22 million Americans were unemployed. That creates a national unemployment rate nearing 18 percent.

As of April 16, 1,041,015 Michigan residents had filed for unemployment benefits, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. That represents a 21 percent rate for the entire state workforce, a percentage second to only Hawaii. The

(Continued on Page 2)

### State experiences 81 percent drop in construction activity

from OxBlue, an Atlanta-based technology company, which reported April 21 that “Michigan is the state with the largest decline in (construction) activity, with an 81 percent drop after a stay-at-home order deeming construction non-essential went into effect on March 24. Pennsylvania, which issued its similar stay-at-home order deeming construction non-essential on March 19, experienced the second most dramatic drop at approximately 69 percent.”

OxBlue said 33 states — where construction is still “essential” — have only seen minimal drops in construction activity between March 1 and April 17, amounting to 5 percent or less during the COVID crisis.

An April 17 update from the Associated General Contractors of Michigan noted that with two

(Continued on Page 3)

## As COVID rages, DOL seizes occasion to cut benefits and safety

By Celine McNicholas  
and Margaret Poydock  
Economic Policy Institute

In the last three weeks, an unprecedented 17 million workers applied for unemployment insurance (UI), while millions more risk their lives to provide essential services.

To mitigate the health and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, Congress has passed a series of bills aimed at providing relief and recovery measures. The Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFRCA) and the CARES Act included critical provisions to assist workers impacted by the pandemic; chief among those are an expansion of Unemployment Insurance (UI) and access to paid leave.

However, rather than working to implement these relief and recovery bills efficiently and effectively, the Trump administration has instead looked for ways to narrow and weaken the worker protections included in the legislation.

At a moment when workers desperately need access to paid leave and unemployment insurance benefits, the Department of Labor (DOL) has issued guidance that leaves fewer workers with these critical protections.

Further, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reversed guidance for essential workers exposed to the coronavirus — allowing asymptomatic workers to continue working and potentially exposing others to the virus.

(Continued on Page 3)



























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**APPRENTICESHIP CLASS SUSPENSION EXTENDED THRU MAY 15, 2020.** Regular Apprenticeship classes had been suspended thru May 15, 2020 to reflect the Governor's stay home order. These are precautionary measures taken by the Board of Trustees, to help mitigate the spread of Coronavirus(COVID-19). Any questions please contact Director of Training Shawn O'Neill (517)304-4425.

**GET INVOLVED AND PARTICIPATE IN YOUR UNION! OUT OF WORK/BACK TO WORK:** To keep work placement efficient, please notify the office when you are laid off or going back to work.

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Anyone possessing a union membership and willingly works at a nonunion shop doing union work can have charges preferred against them under Sec. 16.4, and 19.8 of the District Council By-laws.  
Any questions on local union issues, please call John Sape at 586-899-8082, or Keith

**District Council 1M Business Manager:** Robert Gonzalez  
**Meeting date:** 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., with the Executive Board meeting at 6 p.m.  
**Place:** 14587 Barber Ave, Warren MI 48088 & 419 S. Washington Ave, Lansing MI 48933

**Local Union 312 Business Rep:** Tim Schwerin  
**Meeting date:** 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 1473 N. 30th St., Galesburg, MI 49053

**Local Union 514 Business Rep:** Scott Mikulen  
**Meeting dates:** 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 7920 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI.  
**Web site:** www.iupat-local514.org.

**Local Union 826 Business Rep:** Rocky Ackerman  
**Meeting date:** 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 3115 Joyce St. Burton, MI 48529

**Local Union 845 Business Rep:** Fred Frederickson  
**Meeting date:** 1st Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.  
**Place:** 419 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

**Local Union 1052 Business Rep:** Jake Fluty  
**Meeting date:** The Fourth Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 3115 Joyce St., Burton MI 48529

**Local Union 1803 Business Rep:** Josh Ovalle  
**Meeting date:** 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** 7677 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

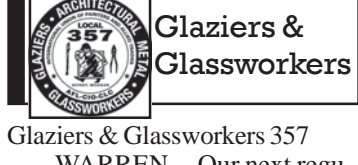
**Local Union 2352 Business Rep:** John Sape  
**Meeting Date:** 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave., Warren, MI.

**Local Union 2353 Business Rep:** Keith Anderson  
**Meeting date:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** District Council 1M, 14587 Barber Ave, Warren, MI.



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Anderson at 586-899-7958, your Business Representatives.  
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**OUT OF WORK: BACK TO WORK:** procedure for out of and back to work: When laid off or going back to work, call the office. 586-552-4474

**Local 357**



**Glaziers & Glassworkers 357**  
WARREN – Our next regular scheduled union meeting will be subject to announcement.

The Governor has just recently extended the shelter in home executive order through May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Apprenticeship classes have been canceled until further notice.  
Brother Jason Rutherford passed away on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> unexpectedly. Jason was a Local 357 Glazier since 1995. Jason was our brother, and our friend. Please keep him, and his family in your thoughts, and prayers.

The Covid-19 has shut down nearly every project in Michigan. Please take this time of shelter in place to stay safe, and keep our families safe. When this is over the work will be there for us to bounce back.

The \$8.00 a week window dues has been waived for the month of April, 2020. No adjustments from the members or offices are needed. These adjustments will be made at the Union Hall.

Keep your working status current; this helps protect your benefits. If you have a mailing address and/or telephone number change, please notify the Union and Fund Offices of the changes.

Dues payments may be mailed to the Union Office at 14587 Barber Avenue, Warren, MI 48088. Make checks payable to: **DISTRICT COUNCIL 1M** in care of Glassworkers #357.

When traveling to work out of town, all members are reminded that they must check in with the local that you are working in as per the International Constitution and our local C.B.A.

The Fund Office address is Michigan Glass and Glazing Joint Funds, P.O. Box 966, Troy, MI 48098-066; phone number: 248-641-4957; fax 248-813-9898.

If you are in need of safety modules, please contact your employer if you are employed or the union office @ 586-552-4478, if you're not. Any questions call the hall or call the Council @ 586-552-4474. Participation is very important to keep your union strong, so try to make it to a meeting.

–Business Rep- Don Stepp

*"The whole life of man is but a point of time; let us enjoy it."*  
–Plutarch (46 AD - 120 AD)

*"The spirit in which a thing is given determines that in which the debt is acknowledged; it's the intention, not the face-value of the gift, that's weighed."*  
–Seneca (5 BC - 65 AD),

Laborers 1191  
DETROIT – **NOTICE THE MAY 1<sup>st</sup>. MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS CANCELED.**  
Due to COVID-19, Laborers' Local 1191 is making every effort to keep our members and staff safe during this time by limiting person-to-person contact at the Local Union Hall. Therefore the **Local Union is closed per Executive Order 'till MAY 15, 2020**  
Thanking you in advance for complying with the COVID-19 recommendations to stay safe and healthy.  
**Check out our website, www.laborerslocal1191.org Important information is now on line!**  
**Dues:** Beginning Jan. 1, 2020 regular monthly dues are \$35 for active members. Retiree monthly dues will remain the same \$ 8.



**PAINTING A SECOND FLOOR hallway wall at the Promedica Hospital project in Adrian is Jason Tivis of Painters and Allied Trades 1-M, Local 514. He's employed by Bucher.**



**MUDDING A SECOND FLOOR hallway wall at the Promedica Hospital project in Adrian is Bill Roberts of Painters and Allied Trades 1-M, Local 514. He's employed by OCP Contractors.**

**NOTICE:** The Uniform Local Union Constitution Article VIII sec. 4. The monthly dues are due on the first day of the month and unless paid on or before the last day of the following month, the member shall be deemed suspended by the International Union without notice.

**Retirees:** Retiree Council's meetings are the last Friday of the month. The meetings are held 11 a.m. at the Local Union Hall located at 2161 West Grand Boulevard in Detroit.

**MUST Safety Awareness Training:** Please check the MUST website at www.mustonline.org to see how many modules you have. **Members are reminded to get your 18 modules and keep them up to date also a current Drug Test.** You can schedule an appointment to take your modules at our training school by calling (734) 729-7005 or 517-625-4919 website www.mltai.org.

Also, check out the training classes available to you at no cost. **Note: classes & certifications contractors have been asking for are, OSHA 30, Asbestos & Lead Awareness, Hoisting & Rigging, Pipeline Safety, Class A Cdl License, Asbestos Removal Supervisors Licence, Confined Space Permit Required, Grade Checking Blueprint Reading & Measuring Tools,** all are available at the training center. It could mean the difference of being sent to work or not!

FYI: By taking the OSHA 30 your 18 MUST Safety modules are updated as well. If you are not able to go to the Training Center for MUST Safety Modules contact the Local, we will help make arrangements for you to complete them.

**Referral List:** Every member who is looking for work must call, or come to the Local Union Office on Mondays between 1-4 pm and put their name on the out-of-work list. You must have an out-of-work skills sheet filled out and on file in order to be referred out for work by this Local Union. Also please be advised: Per the out of work list rules, all members on the list must re-register your availability for work every quarter and do so within the first five days of the following months **March, June, September and December (Roll Call).** Your failure to do so will result in your name being removed from the referral list.

**Save Time & Money:** no more checks or money orders to mail no more worry if it gets here on time, **monthly dues can be deducted from your vacation check** and sent direct to the Local. Please stop by the office to get one of the forms or you may call the office (313-894-2241) to have one mailed to you. We have forms for both Michigan Laborers and Metropolitan Detroit Laborers. **Also, be sure to keep your current address and phone numbers up to date with Local. Current E-mail address is also very important!**  
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TURNING SHEETS OF METAL into tiny nose pieces to be used in face masks to avoid the COVID-19 virus are, at left, (l-r) Rob Moore, Talt Huffman, Mike Hicks and Tim Moore. The Local 80 members are working in the Ventcon shop in Allen Park. Above, making the nose pieces at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 80 Training Center in Warren are (l-r) Local 80's Gary Lulek, Local 292 Organizer Bob Wendell and Local 80 Business Rep. Bryan McConnell.

## Metal strips a big deal for mask-making

(Continued from Page 1)  
custom-fitting the top of a mask to a user's face, making them more effective, less likely to slip off and more comfortable to wear."

In Michigan, as of the end of April about 90,000 of the metal strips had been ordered with affiliated contractors, who have "dropped everything" to fill the orders, according to Sheet Workers Local 7 Business Manager Sam Fuller. Among the contractors manufacturing the strips are Allied Mechanical Services, W. Soule in Kalamazoo and Ventcon in Allen Park. Machinery at SMART Locals 80 and 292 training centers are also being utilized to make the pieces, with union staff and volunteers helping to make and distribute them.

"There has been a lot of effort to fill these orders, and I don't think anyone expected this to be as big an operation as it has turned out to be," Fuller said. "But you see these people volunteering their time day and night to make the masks, it makes you proud to help."

Long-time union contractor W. Soule through last week was collaborating with Local 7 to manufacture a total of 27,500 of the metal strips, in a two-week-long effort that was expected to wrap up on April 22, although more orders could be coming in.

Local 7 members Jakob Morris, Logan Forrester and Darren Ringler laser-cut the pieces at W. Soule, in two different sizes. W. Soule Operations Manager Jason Carter said the company had ample aluminum material on hand; he said the metal is normally used to build fixtures like hoppers and chutes for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries.

"We're fortunate, our work has been deemed an essential by the state, so our doors are open to help the people on the front lines in the medical community and whoever else needs the masks," Carter said. "Together with our union trades, we're definitely proud to help." Local 7-affiliated contractor Allied Mechanical Services in Kalamazoo is also manufacturing an order for 22,000 strips.

The SMART union said the effort began in late March, when the Hillery Co., a custom metal fabrication shop located in Groton, Conn., began posting messages on its Facebook page announcing that the company would donate the nose strips to anyone looking to make masks.

"Hillery was asked by a local nurse to make the aluminum strips used on N95 masks so they could sew them in the cotton masks being made by volunteers around the country," said Hillery em-

ployee and SMART Local 40 member Joe de la Cruz in a message posted to the company's Facebook page on April 6. "I posted a picture showing a small box of strips on March 24 and it has since gone viral."

De la Cruz reached out to leadership of his union for help. The response was immediate – "union locals and union sheet metal contractors from around the country were eager to join the effort and effectively begin crowd-sourcing mass production of the small metal pieces," SMART said.

Sheetmetal Workers Local 7 Business Representative James Callahan said it has been a team effort among personnel at Local 7 to deliver boxes of the strips every day to volunteer mask-makers around Lansing, Jackson and Kalamazoo, who mostly work out of their homes. There's a similar effort from Local 80 and 292 in Southeast Michigan. Completed masks are then donated and distributed where needed. The group is connected by a website, facemaskwarriors.com.

Callahan said all of their contractors have been willing to manufacture the strips, but Allied and W. Soule have the equipment to "tumble" the metal, which removes burrs and sharp edges.

"I know these contractors

have set aside paid jobs to do this, they're doing this at cost and they're sending out boxes of strips every day," Callahan said. "This is going on around the country, and it's hard to believe that this has come together so quickly. It restores your faith in humanity."

Troy-based SMART Local 292 Business Manager Paul Gualdoni said his contractors' machinery is set up to cut and process thicker-gauge metal, not the thin nose pieces. But union staff at their apprenticeship school last week was using equipment there to crank out about 20,000 of the nose pieces. "The need just keeps increasing," he said. "We're just trying to do our part."

SMART Local 80 Business Manager Tim Mulligan said that with the combined effort with SMART Local 292 and Ventcon, as of last week about 40,000 metal nose pieces had been manufactured and distributed to a six-county area in Southeast Michigan. He said additional orders are coming in regularly.

"It's interesting who these are being delivered to," Mulligan said. "I've delivered a couple of boxes myself, and they're mostly just people in their homes who are sewing the strips into masks that they're making. It's just an astonishing effort."

## Trump, OSHA 'AWOL' on safety during crisis

(Continued from Page 1)

In a separate statement, the Fire Fighters union also called out Trump's Federal Emergency Management Agency for putting first responders far down the list of workers who should have priority for protective gear, such as N95 masks, respirators and gloves.

"Keep front-line workers safe," is a top labor demand, Trumka declared. "Keep workers employed" – through guaranteed income even if they can't come in – "and their pensions safe." And "keep the Postal Service healthy" so its members, all unionists, can deliver needed medicines, packages and food during the pandemic.

And workers must have a seat at the table on recovery measures, when they come, Trumka declared. "And we'd put more limits on the funds and continue stringent monitoring" of how and to whom they're sent and spent, he added. That's preferable to just handing out cash, watching firms reroute it, "and then trying to recoup the money after it's been spent."

All those are needed because of closures due to the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected 800,262 people in the U.S. – one-third of the world total – and killed 42,946 – one-fourth – as of the morning of April 21. It has cost workers health insurance, too, Trumka said.

The AFL-CIO sent those demands, in detail, in a letter to legislative leaders this week. They also closely track the list from the Congressional Progressive Caucus, whose 95 members are trying to insert those priorities into the next economic stimulus law. The GOP-run Senate passed a \$484 billion stimulus proposal on April 21, without them.

Trump worsened the coronavirus crisis, which Trumka calculated pushed U.S. unemployment above 20 percent, by refusing to listen to scientific warnings beforehand and now by encouraging crowds that have descended upon several state capitals demanding re-opening of the economy even before the pandemic is licked.

"Now he (Trump) wants us to trust him with our lives and livelihoods," Trumka said, denouncing that very idea – along with those who demand such reopening. "There's no room for error" on reopening, he declared. "We must have a say on that at every level" of both government and business. "And any decision must be based on science, not on politics and profits."

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