

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

December 1, 2020

Michael Potack, Chairman  
Robert Potack, CEO  
David Potack, President  
Unitex/Med-Apparel Services, Inc.  
35 Washington St. Ste 2  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861

Dear Mr. Michael Potack, Mr. Robert Potack, and Mr. David Potack:

We write with concern regarding reports on the lack of adequate health and safety protections for essential workers at your Perth Amboy, New Jersey, facility. We are also troubled by reports that Med-Apparel Services, Inc. and its parent company, Unitex, are attempting to use workers' pension funds as a bargaining chip before the company will give its employees the modest wage increases it has proposed, and that Unitex/MedApparel flatly refuses to commit to implementing COVID-19 safety reforms. We urge you to immediately return to good-faith negotiations with these workers and their union and to uphold critical COVID-19 safety standards in your Perth Amboy facility.

As you are aware, workers from Med-Apparel Services Inc.'s Perth Amboy facility – represented by the Laundry, Distribution, and Food Service Joint Board, Workers United/SEIU (Workers United) – held a rally on September 29 to demand greater protections against COVID-19 and to ask for a new union contract that reflects the essential services they are providing during the coronavirus public health crisis. These workers also conducted a strike on November 18 and 19 to protest your company's alleged unfair labor practices. Workers United represents roughly 120 laundry workers at Med-Apparel Services's Perth Amboy facility who have cleaned patient bed linens, gowns, and other contaminated linens for hospitals and nursing homes throughout the pandemic.


Without a doubt, the grueling services provided by these essential workers have helped ensure the safety of patients, medical professionals, and so many others during the ongoing public health crisis. In return, they have made several reasonable requests of you, their employer. Among these, they have requested information on how many workers have contracted COVID-19 in the Perth Amboy facility and for detailed data on how the virus has spread over the last few months. They are requesting that Med-Apparel Services provide information on the facility's ventilation systems to ensure there is adequate air movement to protect those inside. And, they are requesting a review of all positions within the facility where individuals were working less than six feet apart. The latter of these requests reflects guidance found in several of Governor Phil Murphy's Executive Orders, including Executive Order No. 122, which requires individuals to operate at least six feet apart and the employer to provide adequate safety measures in situations where that is not possible.


Each of the above-mentioned requests appears reasonable and, in fact, necessary to ensure the safety of essential workers during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Additionally, these requests should be honored without asking essential workers to make further sacrifices like forgoing the pensions they earn through their daily hard work.


We must do more to protect and uplift essential workers like those at Med-Apparel Services as we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to immediately return to good-faith negotiations with Workers United to discuss these issues and to take urgent steps to uphold COVID-19 safety standards in your facility.


Thank you for your attention to these matters and we look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

  
Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph Vitale  
Senator  
19<sup>th</sup> District

  
Craig Coughlin  
Speaker  
19<sup>th</sup> District

  
Yvonne Lopez  
Assemblywoman  
19<sup>th</sup> District