

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS
and AEROSPACE WORKERS, DISTRICT LODGE #70**

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Monday, February 24, 2020

Scott Gardner
Communications Representative
IAMAW District Lodge 70
Wichita, Kansas

Chair Suellentrop, Vice-Chair Berger, Ranking Member Bollier and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers. We are in support of Senate Bill 379, which would allow the DCF secretary to request an extension of time limits on food assistance, and could provide needed support to our members if the current production stoppages continue longer than anticipated.

In January, Spirit AeroSystems laid off 2400 of our members at the Wichita plant. We are grateful that Spirit is paying our workers through March 10, and providing health insurance through the month of April. Our members will also be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, likely for 16 weeks; after that, we face a lot of uncertainty.

If production does not return to previous levels in the next few months, our membership will be faced with difficult decisions about possibly relocating to other parts of the country or finding work in other industries. We want to keep our trained aviation machinists in Wichita. We want them to be able to provide for themselves and their families.

We appreciate the efforts of Governor Kelly and her administration's response team coordinated by Sec. Garcia and the Department of Labor, along with the Department of Commerce and the Department for Children and Families. As the shutdown continues, our members will need more support from the state. We understand that there are statutes in place that limit some of the agencies' options, including the current time limits on food assistance from DCF and unemployment insurance from KDOL.

The bill before you today, Senate Bill 379, would allow the DCF secretary to ask the USDA to relax time limits for hardworking Kansans who may be negatively affected by a prolonged shutdown. We ask you to move quickly to pass the bill and support Kansas workers.

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