



International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

IAM Supports the Base Access Privileges Improvement Act

As the largest defense union in the United States, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) represent tens of thousands of private sector government contract workers working on military bases and Department of Defense (DoD) installations across the country.

Given the nature of our members' work coupled with our role in servicing our existing members and ensuring that DoD contract workers have a fair opportunity to exercise their right to organize collectively to form a union; it is vitally important that fit and vetted union representatives have efficient and consistent access to access DoD installations across the country.

As such, the IAMAW strongly supports H.R. 2886 the Base Access Privileges Improvement Act introduced by Representatives John Garamendi (D-CA) and Donald Norcross (D-NJ). This legislation would address the lack of uniformity across DoD installations with respect to access control, background check, and credentialing requirements. The current lack of uniformity creates an inefficient system of access and often means that our members and representatives must undergo separate and inconsistent credentialing processes to access each DOD-regulated facility.

The current lack of uniformity is both inefficient and ineffective and does not promote necessary secure base access protocols. This legislation will not only reduce the burden that DOD's current installation access control standards placed on contractors and their workers, but will also make the system more coherent, secure, and efficient across military installations.

The Base Access Privileges Improvement Act is also directly in line with recommendations outlined in the Biden Administration's White House Task Force on Worker Organizing and Empowerment Report, which provided nearly 70 recommendations to promote organizing and collective bargaining for federal employees, government contractors and private-sector workers. The taskforce report, released in February of 2022, stated:

*Standardize Guidelines for Union Organizer Access to Military Bases and Installations
Recommendation: Instruct the Department of Defense (DOD) to review existing guidance, consider developing consistent policies and best practices, and consider issuing standardized guidance across the Department to ensure union organizers can access bases and installations. The DOD should consider implementing standardized guidelines ensuring that union organizers can have access to employees – including employees of private-sector contractors – on its bases and installations in a manner that does not interfere with safety, security, order, or contract operations.*

For all of these reasons, we urge you to support and cosponsor H.R. 2886 the Base Access Privileges Improvement Act.



International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD SHOULD HAVE RESOURCES TO PROPERLY HELP AIR TRANSPORT AND RAIL WORKFORCE

Request: Increased funding for the National Mediation Board (NMB) to keep pace with duties for Air Transport and Rail workers in the U.S.

- The NMB is a federal agency created through the Railway Labor Act (RLA) and tasked with the facilitation of labor-management relations in the air transport and rail industries.
- The IAM joins other transportation unions in the call for at least \$16 million in funding for the National Mediation Board (NMB) in the Fiscal Year 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill.
 - o *This funding level would be an increase above the President's Fiscal Year 2025 budget request of \$15.113 million, and an increase above FY24 enacted levels.*
- The NMB has gone underfunded for many years; the federal agency's funding level has been increased by less than \$2 million since FY2011, which has not kept pace with inflation.
- In recent years, disputes have often taken years to resolve, due to limited staffing, extreme backlogs, and the resources diverted for implementing a much-needed return to an electronic voting system and bringing the agency into compliance with new federal cybersecurity mandates.

Request: Support Remedies to Long-standing Labor Disputes Before the NMB.

- There are a number of protracted contract negotiations between parties before the NMB. Some of these contract negotiations have been ongoing for years, with workers' wages stagnant during that time.
- The IAM joins in the growing calls from transportation unions urging the NMB to utilize all provisions of the Railway Labor Act (RLA), including the "self-help" and workers' right to strike to encourage negotiations for a fair contract for air transport workers in the U.S.
- There's been only two releases to strike of airline workers since 2006, compared to dozens in the 1980s and 1990s.
- Minus these self-help remedies, management has little incentive to reach agreements with its workforce in a timely manner and many companies have used this development to their advantage, resulting in interminable negotiations and unnecessary labor strife.