



IATSE FEDERAL ISSUE AGENDA

Provide comprehensive COVID-19 relief and economic support to entertainment workers who remain out of work through no fault of their own

Behind-the-scenes entertainment workers across the country have been out of work since the pandemic caused cancellations across all sectors of the industry in March 2020. There is no clear time horizon for a safe return to work for many, especially live event workers. The entertainment industry will continue to be disproportionately impacted by this health crisis for an extended period due to necessary safety restrictions for large gatherings.

- **Pass a relief package that puts workers first, outlined in [IATSE Priorities for Subsequent COVID-19 Relief Legislation](#)**

Protect the right to organize, expand collective bargaining rights, and eliminate so-called “Right-to-work” laws

Labor unions are under assault, with policies across the country undermining workers’ collective bargaining rights and stripping union workers of the wages, benefits, and retirement security they deserve. We must strengthen the federal laws that protect workers’ right to organize a union and bargain for higher wages and better benefits.

- **Pass the Protecting the Right to Organize Act**

Defend our pension funds and ensure retirement security after a lifetime of work

As Congress seeks to address the long-term health of the multiemployer pension system, we oppose any proposals that would weaken our financially stable, healthy pension plans and harm the IATSE’s ability to provide promised retirement security to workers. We must also protect and restore Social Security.

- **Pass the Butch Lewis Act and oppose the Giving Retirement Options to Workers (GROW) Act**

Restore tax fairness for union creative professionals

The 2018 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act eliminated Unreimbursed Employee Expenses as a tax deduction. W-2 workers lost the ability to deduct expenses, often significant, like our equipment, travel for work, and even union dues. This meant an industrywide tax increase for working class, union creative professionals.

- **Pass the Performing Artist Tax Parity Act to update the Qualified Performing Artist tax deduction**

Advance equity, diversity, and inclusion in the arts and entertainment industry

Equal rights are the cornerstone of the labor movement. IATSE is committed to equality of opportunity, eliminating all forms of discrimination, and upending systemic racism in the arts and entertainment industry.

- **Pursue smart policy solutions aimed at creating diverse talent pipelines, incentivizing diversity in hiring, and supporting collective bargaining, outlined in [A Policy Agenda for Advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\) in the Arts, Entertainment, and Media Industries](#)**
- **Pass the Equality Act**



Increase federal funding for the arts

As the union behind entertainment, we know that funding for the arts directly impacts job growth and work for our skilled craftspeople. Federal arts agencies – like the National Endowment for the Arts – support working families, bolster local economies, and ensure all Americans have access to the arts and entertainment.

- **Support a funding level for the NEA equivalent to \$1 per capita**

Enforce strong copyright laws to protect creative content

Fighting online piracy and enforcing copyright obligations are critical to our members. While we do not own the copyrights to the works we help create, our livelihoods depend on contractual residuals paid to our health and pension plans when the copyrights for those audiovisual works are licensed to others over the life of a work. The theft of copyrighted works – domestically and internationally – threatens our hard-won health care benefits and retirement security. Outdated and overbroad copyright safe harbor provisions allow stolen or otherwise illegitimate content to proliferate, cutting into the revenues that provide for our health and pension benefits.

- **Reform Section 512 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) to restore balance between content creators and online platforms and ensure that creative professionals can earn a fair return for their work**
- **Exclude overbroad copyright safe harbor provisions, like DMCA Section 512, from all future U.S. trade agreements**

Safeguard our hard-won health care benefits and realize a health care system that is affordable and accessible to all

We must make quality health care a basic right in the United States. Our longstanding goal for achieving this is to move expeditiously toward a single-payer system that provides universal coverage, without diminishing the hard-fought benefits union members have won for themselves and all working people.