



AFL-CIO-CLC

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## RAPID RESPONSE

### **Fighting For Labor Through The Legislative And Political Process**

On behalf of Director John DeFazio and myself, we would like to welcome you to the United Steelworkers Rapid Response Program for District 10 and are looking forward to working with you and your local members in the future. Listed below is an explanation of what Rapid Response is all about.

#### **WHAT IS RAPID RESPONSE?**

**Grassroots:** Rapid Response is the Steelworkers nonpartisan grassroots education, communication, and action program that involves every Steelworker member.

**Communication:** Rapid Response allows for almost instant personal communication with every USW member on any given subject.

**Education:** Rapid Response provides the necessary structure to inform every USW member about pending legislation concerning labor and work-related issues. All information identifies the issue, the effect on the workers and their families, identifies the sponsors and supporters and asks for a specific response.

**Action:** Rapid Response Action Calls provide USW members a way to respond to the education provided. Rapid Response also provides the necessary structure to activate the USW membership, to provide for real change in our ability to influence the legislative process. The system provides the necessary infrastructure to generate tremendous action on any given issue.

**Change:** Rapid Response provides the tools to generate necessary changes in the legislative process to ensure that labor survives and flourishes far into the future.

**Opportunity:** Finally, Rapid Response provides an opportunity for all USW members to have a strong vote and an active part in the legislative activities that affect their daily lives. This program allows USW members to fight back on a daily basis on issues that affect them, their families, and their communities.



## **Get Involved in Rapid Response: *Have a voice in the issues important to workers!***

**Rapid Response is a grassroots education and action program that gives Steelworker members the ability to have a strong voice and an active role in national and state legislative issues.**

### ***Why do we need Rapid Response?***

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The issues impacting Steelworker members are more critical than ever. Good paying jobs are exiting the country at a very rapid rate due to unfair trade deals and outsourcing. Broken labor laws are undermining the ability of workers to form unions, and in turn, putting even more pressure on Steelworker members to hold the line on benefits and wages. The health care crisis is leaving millions of working people without coverage and resulting in more and more battles at the bargaining table to hang on to benefits. These and other issues are a top priority for our union.

Steelworkers must fight back through Rapid Response. Rapid Response provides the tools to generate necessary changes in the legislative process.

### ***Who can get involved in Rapid Response?***

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Rapid Response provides an opportunity for all Steelworker members to have an active part in the legislative process. Every local union designates a Local Union Coordinator who, along with the President, recruits a Rapid Response Team. The Team Members are responsible for distributing InfoAlerts and Feedback Reports, as well as making sure Action Calls are carried out.

Rapid Response takes place during working hours, so it is an ideal program for Steelworker members who want to get more involved with the union, but can't make additional commitments outside of work hours. For those Rapid Response activists wanting to take part in additional activities outside of the workplace, there are opportunities to attend rallies or events on key issues.

## ***How does Rapid Response work?***

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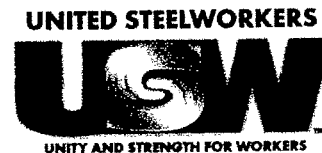
Rapid Response provides the necessary structure to inform every Steelworker member about pending legislation concerning labor and work-related issues.

All information distributed through Rapid Response identifies the issues, its effect on workers and their families, and the sponsors and supporters of the legislation. When it is time to take action on an issue, the information also asks for a specific response.

- ✓ **InfoAlerts** — InfoAlerts inform members of relevant issues and legislation. InfoAlerts, like other information from Rapid Response, are received by email or fax. Rapid Response Team Members in the workplace should distribute this information and discuss it one-on-one with other union members.
- ✓ **Action Calls** — When action is needed on an issue that affects workers, an “Action Call” is sent. Action Calls may ask members to write a letter, make a phone call, or to take other steps to inform legislators of our positions on issues.
- ✓ **Feedback Reports** — When an action is completed, a “Feedback Report” is sent out. This report explains the results of the action, including how legislators voted on certain issues and whether or not they supported our position.



**PLEASE CONTACT**



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