



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 facilities 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 supports H.R. 2886 the Base Access Privileges Improvement Act introduced by Representatives Garamendi and Norcross.