

## Indiana UFCW Members Gear Up to Fight Right-to-Work



*UFCW Local 700 members take part in training on lobbying legislators and talking to friends and neighbors about right-to-work.*

The Indiana Legislature is once again considering a controversial right-to-work bill. In a hearing held today, a joint Senate-House Committee examined the right-to-work bill and UFCW members from across Indiana were there to tell their elected officials that the bill is bad for Hoosiers and bad for working families. "Don't sell Hoosiers short. Let's invest in education and infrastructure to create new jobs," said Local 700 member and grocery worker Ashley McDonald of Brazil, Indiana. "Lowering our standard of living with a right-to-work law won't bring business or jobs to Indiana."

Members from UFCW Locals 700, 75, 881, and 227 and the RWDSU attended the hearing, then took part in a training on lobbying their legislators and talking to their neighbors about right-to-work. **OP**

## Chorus of Voices Calls on White House to Tell Walmart to End the Poverty Cycle

*The following is a statement issued by UFCW International President Joe Hansen in advance of an event in the White House last week in which First Lady Michelle Obama recognized retailers who want to expand their business into underserved areas. Walmart was among the attendees.*

The First Lady's commitment to addressing childhood obesity in the U.S. is laudable and the UFCW commends her for her enthusiasm for such a worthy endeavor. But with income disparity between the rich and the poor at more extreme levels than during the Great Depression, Walmart must be held accountable for its track record of lowering standards for millions of retail workers. Walmart is more responsible than any other private employer in our country for creating poverty-level jobs that leave workers unable to purchase healthy food or provide a good life for their families.

I met Walmart Associate Girshreila Green last month who told me that she got her job at the inner-city Crenshaw Walmart in Los Angeles through the welfare-to-work program. And after three years of work and an excellent employment record at what she calls the 'ghetto Walmart,' Girshreila still has a welfare card in her pocket, right along with her Walmart I.D. and Walmart discount card.

There is no economic justification that our nation's largest private employer should pay wages so low that any of its employees qualify for public assistance. But the fact that tens of thousands of Walmart associates qualify and utilize food stamps, Medicare, and Medicaid is reason enough that the White House should join with our union and tell Walmart enough is enough. Our national economic crisis is made worse by companies like Walmart suppressing wages for its 1.4 million hourly workers who live and work in communities across the country.

Walmart claims it wants to open stores in urban markets like Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and other major cities. Workers, community leaders and consumers in each of those cities have called on Walmart to commit to providing good jobs that pay wages high enough to improve the lives of workers in those cities. The fact is, when Walmart opens in a community, it replaces what were good jobs with poverty-level ones. Walmart continues to drive the cycle of poverty by lowering wage rates and preventing associates from lifting themselves out of economic insecurity.

Millions of grocery workers serve communities of every income level and hold good jobs with fair wages, affordable health care, and a voice on the job. The White House should laud employers who are fueling economic recovery by creating good jobs where workers can afford to take care of their

families and buy the healthy food their children deserve.

*President Hansen, as the president of Change to Win, also issued a joint statement with AFL-CIO Pres. Richard Trumka. Other leaders challenged the White House to tell Walmart to create good jobs including SEIU's Mary Kay Henry, Teamsters General President Jim Hoffa, President John W. Wilhelm of UNITE HERE, and CWA President Larry Cohen.*

*To see a clip of Girshrelia Green discussing the realities of her job at Walmart, visit <http://vimeo.com/26640913>. OP*

## UFCW Members in Wisconsin Help Elect Democratic Senator in First Recall Race

Wisconsin State Senator Dave Hansen rode to victory in the first of the Wisconsin recall races. Senate District 30 stood with Hansen, one of the Fabulous 14 who stood with workers last February to block the collective bargaining bill.

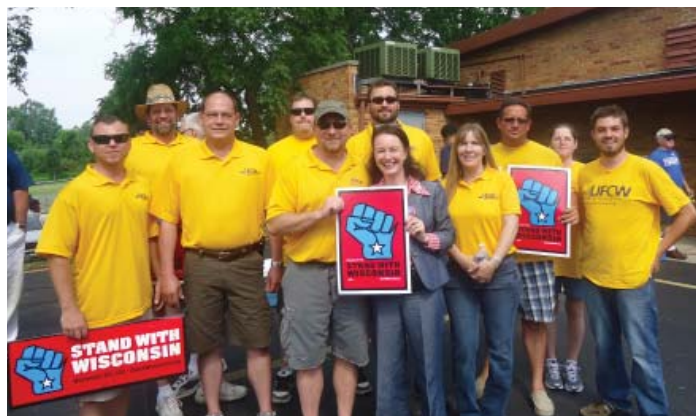
With the help of UFCW members, working families and dedicated volunteers, Hansen easily defeated Republican challenger David Vanderleest in the first of 9 recall elections. All 6 Wisconsin State AFL-CIO endorsed candidates made it through the Democratic primary for an August 9 election date, and with last week's victory by Sen. Dave Hansen the people of Wisconsin are 7 for 7.

For more information on recalls and what's happening in your state, visit: <http://www.voteufcw.org>. OP

## UFCW, Local 1657 Join Suit to Stop Unconstitutional Alabama Immigration Law

The UFCW and Local 1657 have joined a coalition of community organizations in suing to stop implementation of Alabama's unconstitutional and discriminatory new immigration law, HB 56. The law criminalizes everyday contact with undocumented Alabamans, including giving an undocumented person a ride in a car.

UFCW International President Joe Hansen filed a declaration with the court about the harm this unconstitutional bill could



have on union organizing in Alabama. "UFCW organizers or other staff who transport current and potential union members could face criminal prosecution under the transportation provision of HB 56 because it is not UFCW policy to inquire about immigration status. This will result in either the lessening of key organizing activities or in the diversion of resources in order to protect and assist UFCW staff who are facing criminal charges."

Hansen also testified to the "direct harm" to the UFCW's core mission and representational obligations, "by subjecting UFCW members to unlawful questioning, arrest and detention by state and local law enforcement officers; deterring UFCW-represented workers from attending and participating in UFCW activities and representation of employees."

We know the only real solution to the immigration debate facing our country is a comprehensive national solution, not state-by-state discrimination. To learn more and be a part of the solution, visit [www.voteufcw.org](http://www.voteufcw.org). OP

## Purchase Your UFCW Logo Items at Office Solutions

American Unions Embroidery and Screenprinting, Inc., a division of Office Solutions-USA, is now officially producing UFCW logo apparel and products. If you would like to order UFCW items, please order through [www.ufcw.org](http://www.ufcw.org) or [www.shopufcw.com](http://www.shopufcw.com).

The staff of Office Solutions-USA and their divisions are all UFCW members. Please wear these UFCW-made products to show your support of the UFCW. OP