

## UFCW Locals Participate in Making Change at Walmart's Nationwide Actions



*Faye Gibson of Local 324 met with Walmart Associate, Dan Hindman.*

Last week, UFCW members from Locals 8GS, 21, 23, 75, 324, 400, 455, 540, 655, 700, 770, 880, 881, 1000, 1428, 1445, 1459, 1473, 1564, 1776, 1994, 1996, and 2008, with the help of UFCW/RWDSU locals in New York City, visited Walmart stores around the country to speak directly to Walmart Associates about the Organization United for Respect at Walmart (OUR Walmart).

Walmart associates across the country have joined forces with UFCW member-organizers to seek improvements in their work place, including a voice on the job and the dignity and respect they deserve. In June 2011, thousands of Walmart associates announced the creation of OUR Walmart because workers know they are stronger as a group.

By joining Making Change at Walmart, UFCW members have the opportunity to stand strong and help build OUR Walmart in communities nationwide. For more information about how UFCW is standing with Walmart associates nationally, visit [www.changewalmart.org](http://www.changewalmart.org). **OP**

## UFCW Members in Ohio Mobilize in Opposition to SB5

In just 35 days, voters in Ohio will go to the polls to overturn SB-5, an anti-worker, anti-collective bargaining law which strips collective bargaining rights away from public employees. The bill was passed by Republican Governor John Kasich and his Tea Party supporters in Ohio's state legislature.

Since the law passed, the "We are Ohio" campaign collected 1.3 million signatures (one million more than necessary) to get SB5 on the ballot to be overturned. UFCW was deeply involved in this effort.

Recent polls show the Ohioans want to overturn the law 51% to 38%. The majority of Ohioans are against this law. But, anti-worker forces think they can win on the margins by getting a majority out to the polls on Election Day.

While Governor Kasich and his supporters have argued that the law was meant to balance the state's budget, it's clear that the end goal is about silencing the political voice workers have in their unions.

In an email to his fellow Tea Party members, Tom Zawistowski, the executive director of the Portage County Tea Party, wrote, "...for the Tea Party/Patriot movement our number one goal is to de-fund the union leadership and thus their exclusive partners in the Democratic Party and take back control of our government."

Twenty lost-timers from UFCW Locals 75 and 1059 are already engaging in in-store member mobilization in Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo and in communities across Ohio. In the coming weeks, those lost-timers, along with dozens of International staff, will be embedded in the joint "We Are Ohio" and Labor GOTV program where they will be running phone banks and canvassing homes to urge Ohioans who want to stop SB5 to vote "No on Issue 2." Because this is a ballot initiative, they'll be talking to more than just union members and contacting as many people as possible to get out the vote.

For more information about "We Are Ohio" and its campaign to defeat SB5, visit <http://weareohio.com/>. **OP**

## UFCW and Smithfield Continue “Feeding the Hungry” Tour in New York and Vermont

As part of a continued effort to address the growing number of people facing hunger and food insecurity in our communities, the UFCW, along with Smithfield and the Food Network’s Paula Deen, delivered 240,000 servings of protein to the Vermont Foodbank in Barre, Vt., and City Harvest, Inc. in Long Island City, N.Y. The events were part of the “Feeding the Hungry Tour,” a joint program of the UFCW and Smithfield to donate and help deliver 20 million servings of protein over three years to food assistance organizations around the country.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, the “Feeding the Hungry Tour,” along with Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, donated 120,000 servings of protein to the Vermont Foodbank, the state’s largest hunger-relief organization, on September 15. On October 1, the “Feeding the Hungry Tour” donated 120,000 servings of protein to City Harvest in Long Island City. For more information about the “Feeding the Hungry Tour,” visit [www.ufcw.org/take\\_action/feeding\\_the\\_hungry/index.cfm](http://www.ufcw.org/take_action/feeding_the_hungry/index.cfm). **OP**



On September 15, Governor Peter Shumlin (left) joined the “Feeding the Hungry Tour” in Barre, Vt., along with Esther Lopez of the UFCW and John Sayles of the Vermont Foodbank.

## House Republicans Continue to Target the NLRB, Along with Other Social Programs

On September 29, Representative Denny Rehberg (R-Mont.), chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services and Education, circulated a draft bill that cuts funding for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), and health and education programs for fiscal year 2012.

The legislation targets programs that affect workers, their families and students. The bill cuts the NLRB’s budget by 17 percent and defunds the NLRB’s attempt to modernize the union election process to ensure that workers have the basic right to vote. The bill also defunds the NLRB’s attempt to require employers to notify employees of their right to form or join unions under National Labor Relations Act.

The legislation also eliminates funding for DOL programs that connect workers with private lawyers who can help them litigate claims involving minimum wage, overtime pay, and family and medical leave; train workers for “green jobs” in energy-efficient industries; and help communities hurt by the downturn in the auto industry.

In addition, the legislation prohibits spending to carry out the new health care law until all legal challenges have been resolved, and eliminates funding for the government’s main family planning program, Title X of the Public Health Service Act. The bill also takes aim at education initiatives by eliminating funding for President Obama’s “Race to the Top” school improvement program and restricting Pell Grant eligibility for low-income students.

For more information about the legislation, visit [http://appropriations.house.gov/UploadedFiles/FY\\_2012\\_Final\\_LHHSE.pdf](http://appropriations.house.gov/UploadedFiles/FY_2012_Final_LHHSE.pdf). **OP**

Last week, OnPoint reported that Nebraska Prime Group workers joined UFCW Local 22. They actually joined UFCW Local 293. Former UFCW Locals 22 and 271 recently merged to form UFCW 293.