

## California Governor Jerry Brown Signs AB 183

On October 9, California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill that will prohibit the sale of alcohol at self-checkout machines. The bill, AB 183, was authored by California Assembly Member Fiona Ma (D – San Francisco) in response to minors purchasing alcohol by using self-checkout lanes to avoid identification checks by retail clerks.



*The new law, AB 183, will affect Tesco's Fresh & Easy chain, which has more than 125 stores in California utilizing self-checkout only registers.*

The bill was supported by the UFCW, along with Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Consumer Federation of California; California Council on Alcohol Problems; Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California; California Police Chiefs; Alcohol Justice; California Narcotic Officers' Association; Metro United Methodist Urban Ministry; California's police officers; and California Professional Firefighters.

Studies by UCLA and San Diego State University have shown that alcohol restrictions by self-service checkout systems failed as much as 10 percent of the time and that 32 percent of students purchasing alcohol through these systems were not asked to show identification. Other minors have found strategies to bypass age restrictions when a clerk is not present.

The new law will affect the British-owned Fresh & Easy grocery chain, a subsidiary of Tesco, which has a business model that combines self-checkout only with a heavy reliance on alcohol sales. **OP**

## H&M Workers in Mississauga Vote YES for the Union

A majority of workers at an H&M store in Mississauga, Ontario, have voted "Yes" to UFCW Canada representation. The votes were tallied immediately following a secret ballot certification vote held Thursday, October 6, at the H&M location in the Square One Shopping Centre in Mississauga.

These H&M workers will make their store the first of H&M's more than 50 Canadian locations to have a union voice in the workplace. With a certificate expected shortly from the Ontario Labour Relations Board, first-contract negotiations could begin before the end of the year. The new members are mostly college age and work as cashiers, merchandisers, and shelf stockers.

The workers were encouraged by the fact that UFCW/RWDSU had recently organized and negotiated a good first contract at 16 H&M stores in New York City. H&M workers in Sweden, the company's home country, also have a union voice on the job, as do H&M workers in many other European locations.

"Good things happen when workers stand together," said UFCW Canada National President Wayne Hanley. "We welcome the new members at H&M, and we congratulate them for opening the door for other Canadian H&M workers to stand in solidarity and organize." **OP**



*H&M workers in Mississauga, Ontario, will make their store the first of H&M's more than 50 locations in Canada to have a union voice.*



## UFCW, Women's Groups Challenge Walmart to Create Better Working Conditions for Women

On October 5, national women's advocacy organizations joined with Making Change at Walmart to call on Walmart to adopt policies to improve working conditions for women employed by the retail giant. Walmart associates from the Organization United for Respect at Walmart (OUR Walmart), together with representatives from the UFCW Women's Network; National Organization for Women; National Partnership for Women & Families; Family Values @ Work and others, are developing a set of recommendations to Walmart about how to treat its female employees justly.

The women's groups have sent an open letter to Walmart CEO Mike Duke that calls on the company to meet with OUR Walmart representatives. The specific recommendations of the groups focus on how Walmart can improve its pay; system of resolution for employees' concerns; scheduling practices; systems for promotions; and sick, vacation and family leave policies.

Other supporting organizations that have joined Making Change at Walmart include 9 to 5: National Association of Working Women; Labor Project for Working Families; and the National Congress of Black Women. **OP**



*In the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to deny class action status to female Walmart workers, national women's groups are joining Making Change at Walmart to create better working conditions for women who work at the retail giant.*

## UFCW Stands with Medical Cannabis Retail Workers

On October 7, the UFCW demanded an immediate end to the U.S. Attorney's misguided prosecution of operators of small dispensaries of legal medical cannabis in California.

In the past year, thousands of hardworking and taxpaying medical cannabis industry workers have joined together with the UFCW in various states in order to protect their jobs in this emerging industry. In today's economy, hourly wage jobs like these that pay good wages with decent benefits are vital to keeping the economy afloat and families out of poverty.

At a time when the unemployment rate hovers around 9 percent, our economy requires bold action from our government to create good family-sustaining jobs. The steps taken by the four California U.S. attorneys to send letters notifying at least 16 medical dispensaries and their landlords that they are violating federal drug laws would do just the opposite.

"I have a good middle class American job with good health benefits and a pension that I can look forward to," said Larry Richards, a UFCW Local 5 member and a manager at the Blue Sky Dispensary in Oakland, Calif. "Because of our industry and our union I am able to be a productive breadwinner."

Medical cannabis is a safe and effective treatment option for many serious medical conditions including cancer. If the federal government closes commercial dispensaries and collectives in California, patients will have no safe access to their medication. In addition, thousands of workers will be forced from their jobs in the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

The UFCW and our members are dedicated to a dignified, controlled, taxed, regulated, compliant, unionized medical cannabis industry, and we stand in solidarity with the workers and patients of the unionized medical cannabis industry. **OP**