

Change to Win and AFL-CIO Unveil Unified Immigration Reform Framework

UFCW International President Joe Hansen, chair of the Change to Win Immigration Task Force, and John Sweeney, International President of the AFL-CIO, today unveiled a unified framework for comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

The joint announcement and proposal is a critical sign of support for the Administration and Congress to address immigration reform – and to ensure that it remains a priority on the legislative calendar. It is also an important sign that immigration reform is an important part of economic recovery.

“We need an immigration system that works for America’s workers,” said President Hansen. “For too long, our nation’s immigration system has fueled discrimination and exploitation of workers. It has driven down wages and working conditions. And it has failed to live up to our nation’s values. We now have an opportunity to change course. This framework is a roadmap toward real reform—reform that addresses the needs of our nation’s workers, families and communities. This framework is about moving America forward. We are a nation that respects hard work, family and the pursuit of the American Dream. Our immigration system must hold true to these principles.”

To read the entire set of principals, go to www.ufcw.org.

Wal-Mart Workers In Quebec Get Historic Contract Agreement with UFCW Canada

After years of legal challenges, a Quebec government arbitrator has awarded workers at a Wal-Mart store a labor agreement. For the first time in North America, Walmart workers have a union contract that guarantees seniority rights and a grievance procedure to provide more stability, fairness and dignity in the workplace.

The St-Hyacinthe contract also includes pay increases, a wage ladder free from favoritism and enhanced vacation entitlements.

The St-Hyacinthe contract is a historic opportunity for Walmart to demonstrate to Canada and the rest of world that it respects the rights of workers and is truly committed to becoming a good corporate citizen. The UFCW is cautiously optimistic that Walmart will do the right thing—respect the rights of St-Hyacinthe workers by continuing its business in that community, and by running it within the framework of a collective agreement. **OP**

Video of UFCW Members Speaking On Employee Free Choice Available to Watch or Download Online



A few weeks ago, hundreds of UFCW members, staff, and workers from across the nation were on Capitol Hill to share their experience about having a union at work and to urge their elected officials to support the passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

While those workers were in Washington, D.C., they also recorded their stories for radio ads in their home states as well as for video footage. You can go to <http://www.ufcwtv.com/employeechoice.htm> to watch the videos, listen to the radio ads, and look for workers from your state or region. **OP**

Hundreds of Community Members Turn Out to Local 1500 Building Blocks Campaign Event



Community members in New York City sign a letter asking grocery store to improve working conditions

Last week, hundreds of community members living near the Agata and Valentina grocery store in New York City signed an open letter to the owners, asking them to reflect on working conditions at the store, to respect workers and to treat them with dignity.

The letter read, "During this meaningful week of Passover and Easter holidays, our families take time to reflect upon the hardships faced by workers in our community. We are alarmed to learn that people who serve us so well in your store are suffering from substandard workplace conditions."

Hundreds of community members signed the letter when they heard about working conditions inside the store. "The community had a very emotional response when talking about the treatment of workers," said Wendy Weiner, campaign coordinator for UFCW's Building Blocks Project. **OP**

New American Rights at Work Ad Hits Hard at Corporate Interests' Greed
American Rights at Work is following Sunday's TV ad launch with a new, hard-hitting ad to support the Employee Free Choice Act.

"Greed" exposes the self-interest behind corporate opponents of the bill, and is airing nationwide on cable and broadcast television.

The ad calls out corporations, many of whom have received billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded bailouts, for opposing the Employee Free Choice Act.

The ad also points out that instead of focusing on rebuilding our economy, companies like Bank of America have been working against workers' freedom to bargain collectively, exploiting their low wage workers, and rewarding their leaders with million dollar payouts.

View the ad on www.AmericanRightsatWork.org
YouTube link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAy-ZPW18RI **OP**

National Labor Committee Update

Last week, OnPoint announced the creation of a National Labor Coordinating Committee to consult among their affiliated unions and to act nationally on the critical issues facing working Americans.

Questions about how the Committee will work, and what role it will play in dealing with challenges that affect working Americans remain. The Committee is taking shape under the able leadership of Chair David Bonior. **OP**