

UFCW Local 152 Members Stand Together for a Fair Contract at Vineland Kosher

THE TRUTH ABOUT

VINELAND KOSHER

FIRST they take away our health care, putting our families at risk.
NOW they're trying to defend their disgusting behavior.

Our union stood up to Vineland Kosher and filed charges to stop these unfair practices. **ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7th**, in front of the national labor board, our union is fighting to get back what Vineland Kosher has taken away—the ability to see a doctor when we're sick.

Join your co-workers in the effort to get a fair contract. To learn more, call Javiel Nazario at 610-745-7290.

The livelihoods of more than 190 UFCW Local 152 members who work at Vineland Kosher Poultry, Inc., a private slaughtering and processing company in Vineland, N.J., are at risk since the expiration of their contract last October.

While Local 152 members have been trying to bargain in good faith to preserve crucial benefits, such as affordable health care, Vineland Kosher is putting forward anti-worker schemes to stall the process and avoid addressing the needs of its workforce.

The company has decided unilaterally in their latest contract offer to eliminate the workers' health care insurance, reduce the number of paid holidays and vacation days, and take away the right to work on Sundays at the premium rate.

“The company wants to take our health insurance away and without health insurance I cannot afford to go to the doctor or even get sick,” said Edwin Baez, who has worked at Vineland Kosher for the last 16 years.

Vineland workers are standing together to put an end to the company's anti-worker and anti-family tactics. Local 152 has filed unfair labor practices charges with the National Labor Relations Board. **OP**

Health Care Reform: It's Crunch Time

As the Senate Finance Committee completes work on their health care bill, the next phase is critical to ensuring that a strong bill makes it to the Senate floor. The process involves merging the Senate Finance Committee Bill (Baucus bill) and the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee bill.

Below are a couple of talking points on why the Senate HELP bill, unlike the Baucus bill, offers a better path forward, and what senators need to do.

- The HELP legislation makes health insurance affordable to families through subsidies, lowers the cost of insurance with a public health insurance option, and promotes shared responsibility with an employer requirement for coverage;
- The Baucus bill falls short on making insurance affordable to America's families, gives employers a 'free ride' and does not create meaningful competition in the insurance market with a public option;
- Both committees have gone out of their way to incorporate constructive Republican ideas, but Republicans have failed to come to the table with a workable plan to make health care available and affordable to Americans;
- We are counting on senators to stand for real reform with strong employer responsibility, a robust public insurance option and fair financing.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

If your senators haven't heard from you yet, now is the time! Go to www.ufcwactnow.org and fill in your information to call your senators and tell them to take a stand for the reform we need.

It's time to get it done!

Continued on Back

Continued

Also, check out Health Care for America Now's (HCAN) new ads on rich health insurance CEOs making millions and living in luxury while middle class families are struggling to pay medical bills, going bankrupt, and losing their homes. To watch the videos, go to <http://healthcareforamericanow.org/site/video/>. **OP**



UFCW Locals in Massachusetts Support Congressman Mike Capuano's Bid for U.S. Senate

UFCW Local Unions 1445, 791, 328 and 1459 in Massachusetts last week endorsed Congressman Mike Capuano (D-MA), representing the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts, in his bid for the U.S. Senate.

The UFCW locals believe Capuano has a proven record of serving the working men and women of Massachusetts. Capuano has protected jobs for UFCW members and protected retail workers' jobs by fighting off the advancement of Walmart in the Eighth Congressional District, but, above all, he is committed to ensuring that Senator Kennedy's vision of real health care reform becomes a reality.

"I appreciate the confidence they have shown in me and I will never stop fighting to protect the interests of working men and women so that they have access to affordable health care, a fair wage and equal opportunity under the law," Congressman Capuano stated.

UFCW locals in Massachusetts represent more than 40,000 members. **OP**

Walmart is Guilty, Labor Arbitrator in Canada Finds

The Quebec Labor Relations Board in Canada issued a ruling finding Walmart acted illegally by laying off 190 workers at its store in Jonquière, Quebec, in April 2005. The workers had joined UFCW Canada Local 503 and were ready to begin negotiating a first contract when Walmart closed the store permanently.

In his ruling, Arbitrator Jean-Guy Ménard said the company had not justified its decision to dismiss its employees.

"The ruling shows Walmart is ready to take whatever it needs to get the union out of one of its stores," said André Dumas, President of Local 503. "The legal fees invested by Walmart would no doubt have better served the interests of workers by keeping them at work."

Local 503 expects Walmart will challenge the decision as it has usually done since the beginning of the conflict. **OP**

New Study Sheds Light on Disparities in Economic Recovery

The Center for American Progress this month released a report with new data showing that the gap in economic security between minorities and whites is widening in the current economic recession.

Leveling the Playing Field: How to Ensure Minorities Share Equitably in the Economic Recovery and Beyond finds that in the absence of concrete economic policy steps, recovery efforts will not help society's most vulnerable.

The full report is available at <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/09/pdf/minorities.pdf>. **OP**

Due to Columbus Day which is observed Monday, October 12, the next edition of *OnPoint* will be available on Wednesday, October 14.