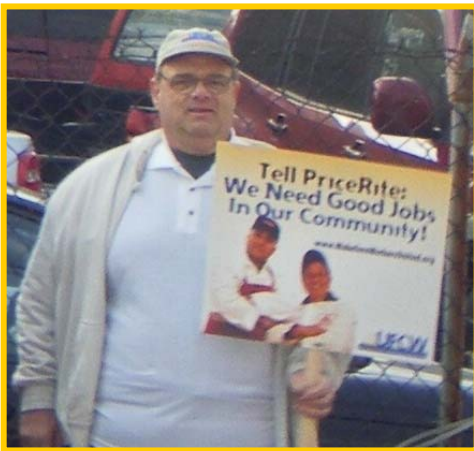


## UFCW Members and Community Allies Rally on Behalf of PriceRite Worker Who Spoke out for Union

Over 100 UFCW members and staff, workers and labor and community allies from across New England gathered in Providence, R.I., last week to support the Employee Free Choice Act and Joe Sorrentino—a worker at a Wakefern-owned PriceRite in North Providence, R.I. Locals 919, 371, 1445, 791, 1459 and 328 as well as the region office all came out in a show of solidarity.



**PriceRite worker Joe Sorrentino spoke about his attempts to organize PriceRite and his subsequent demotion by PriceRite management, according to NLRB charges filed by Local 328.**

According to charges filed by UFCW Local 328 with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Sorrentino has been punished for standing up for a union at his workplace. Sorrentino and other PriceRite

employees have been working to organize with the UFCW, but have faced a campaign of company harassment and intimidation.

“Joe Sorrentino bravely stood up for his rights...his subsequent demotion is a terrible injustice and sends a chilling message to workers that you will be punished for wanting to have a voice on the job,” said Mary Beth Maxwell, founding Executive Director of American Rights at Work (ARAW), in a statement of support from the organization. “American Rights at Work and our allies are even more emboldened to fight for swift passage of the Employee Free Choice Act to ensure Joe and workers everywhere have a free choice to join a union and a chance at a better life.”

Shortly after receiving national attention for speaking out on behalf of the Employee Free Choice Act at a press conference on January 13, Sorrentino was demoted—the kind of harassment by corporations against workers that the Employee Free Choice Act seeks to eliminate.

“If the Employee Free Choice was already a law, my employer would not have been able to treat me like they did. I would have been able to speak out without fear of retaliation,” said Sorrentino at the event. **op**

## UFCW Locals Help Send Valentine’s Message to CVS: Have a Heart: Unlock the Condoms

UFCW locals in Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and New York joined Change to Win, community and labor activists in giving CVS stores Valentine's Day cards saying, "Have a Heart: Unlock the Condoms."

A recent survey of CVS stores showed that in a number of cities nationwide, the retailer was at least three times more likely to lock condoms up where they operate in minority communities than in predominantly white communities. Many community leaders find the practice especially troubling since studies show that HIV/AIDS is the number one killer of black American women between the ages of 25 and 34, and since among Latinos, the rate of new HIV infections is three times the rate of whites.

For video coverage of the events, go to: <http://media.vmsnews.com/MR.pl?id=021309-1635103-E001731822>  
For more info on the “Have a Heart” campaign, go to: [www.cureCVSNow.org](http://www.cureCVSNow.org). **op**

## UFCW Scholarship Now Available

Each year the UFCW International awards several scholarships of up to \$8,000 each to UFCW members or their unmarried dependents. This year's scholarship application is now available. For deadline information and further details, go to:

<http://www.ufcw.org/scholarship/>

## UFCW Member Wins Top Honors in Best Bagger Competition

UFCW Local 99 member and Fry's courtesy clerk Francisco Palacios beat out 23 other finalists from California, Washington, Michigan and Alabama in February at the U.S.A. Best Bagger Competition in Las Vegas.

Palacios, who works at Fry's 137 in Tucson, credits the



UFCW Local 99 member and Fry's worker Francisco Palacios won top honors at the U.S.A. Best Bagger Competition.

hand-eye coordination he honed playing table tennis since childhood. "We've always had a ping-pong table in our home," he says. "I'm the youngest of six children, so I always had to play against my older siblings. That makes you get up to speed pretty fast."

Palacios says he joined UFCW Local 99 because the union stands by its members.

"My union will always support me if I have a problem on the job," he says. "That's what unions are for. The more members we have, the stronger we become." **op**

## UFCW Members Hopeful as Economic Recovery Package Finally Passes

Thousands of UFCW members and supporters, along with millions of other union members, called and emailed their members of Congress in the last few weeks and urged them to pass the Economic Recovery Package.

Now their efforts have paid off, as President Obama signed this important legislation into effect today. UFCW members and their families nationwide are optimistic that the bill will jump start the economy and get Americans working again. **op**

## Victory a Long Time Coming, Finally Here Thanks to Local 540 Members' Solidarity

Meat cutters at four El Paso Albertson's stores voted to join a union seven years ago. But almost immediately, the company began a decertification campaign that's kept those meat cutters fighting to gain a contract.

Those Albertson's workers and Local 540 members stood together, united for a good contract, for seven years. Now their solidarity and strength has paid off. Workers just voted overwhelmingly to keep the union at their workplace, despite the anti-worker, anti-union campaign the company has been running in stores. UFCW Local 540 members working at Albertson's know that with a union, they will have better benefits, better wages, and real job security in these tough economic times. **op**

## Local 711 Members Stick Together for Contract with Affordable Health Care

UFCW Local 711 members ratified a new contract with Smith's, Food 4 Less, Vons and Albertson's, covering nearly 7,000 workers at nearly 140 stores in and around Las Vegas. **op**