

## Walmart Workers Urge Senators to Pass Employee Free Choice Act, Encourage Change in the Workplace



Walmart workers speak out for a union voice on the job at the National Organizing Meeting in Washington, DC.

Walmart workers from across the nation converged on Capitol Hill last week for a National Organizing Meeting to brief Senators about wages, benefits and the Employee Free Choice Act. Nearly 100 Walmart workers from 17 states participated in the event. As part of their campaign for a union voice on the job, they urged lawmakers to level the playing field for working people by supporting the Employee Free Choice Act.

“I made the trip into Washington, DC to stand with my fellow Walmart workers and to urge my Senators to pass the Employee Free Choice Act,” said Dominique Sloan, a Dallas, Tex., Walmart worker. “We need change in this country. All you have to do is look at how all the money goes to CEOs. But when it comes to workers, it’s always the same: no health care or health care that’s too expensive and low wages. We need to change that.”

The National Organizing Committee is made up of Walmart workers from Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Despite Walmart’s well-documented history of anti-working family activities, workers say they are excited by the election of Barack Obama, excited that the President says it’s not too much to ask Walmart to pay decent wages and provide good health care, and excited that the Employee Free Choice Act can help bring the change that helps workers and makes Walmart live up to its responsibilities.

“I have three boys, and I had to get Florida Kids Care to cover their medical,” says Cheryl Guzman, a Walmart worker from Miami. “It’s either you eat, or you have medical coverage—that’s not right. That’s why I’m part of Walmart Workers for Change.”

Walmart Workers for Change is a new campaign and project of the UFCW made up of thousands of Walmart workers joining together to form a union and negotiate better benefits, higher wages, and more opportunity for a better future. Ten workers recently shared their stories in a new video, released earlier last week.

For more on the campaign and to watch the video, please visit [www.walmartworkersforchange.org](http://www.walmartworkersforchange.org). **OP**

### Show Support for Health Care: Donate and Get a UFCW-made Shirt

The UFCW is a founding member of Health Care for America Now (HCAN), and UFCW members have been active in the campaign since its start last year.

Now HCAN is showing support for UFCW members. HCAN is giving a UFCW union-made t-shirt to anyone who donates \$10 or more to help the campaign win quality, affordable health care for all. Do something good for UFCW members and for all Americans. Donate at [www.healthcareforamericanow.org](http://www.healthcareforamericanow.org). **OP**



### New Study Shows Majority Sign-Up Works, Without Coercion, For Thousands

A new study cuts through misleading, baseless corporate spin claiming the majority sign-up process exposes workers to coercion or intimidation. "A Study of Illinois' Majority Interest Petition Provision," by University of Illinois labor policy professor Robert Bruno, is based on his analysis of every majority sign-up petition filed in Illinois since a 2003 law passed allowing workers in state, local and educational institutions the right to choose to form unions through majority sign-up.

He concludes, "The results of the study unambiguously revealed that the majority sign-up provision was used extensively without hint of union or employer abuse." You can download and read the full report at [www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/voicetatwork/efca/upload/efca\\_illinois.pdf](http://www.aflcio.org/joinaunion/voicetatwork/efca/upload/efca_illinois.pdf). **OP**

### Research Shows the Benefits of Unionization for Many Types of Workers

The Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) has created a series of one-pagers on the benefits of unions for American workers. The one-pagers show the benefits of belonging to a union for women, African-

Americans, Latinos, young workers, service sector workers, low wage workers and workers from specific states. Find the papers and more information at [www.cepr.net/index.php/the-benefits-of-unionization](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/the-benefits-of-unionization). **OP**

### Many Bruno's Workers Keep Union, Jobs Through Sale to Southern Family Markets

A bankruptcy judge has okayed the sale of Bruno's Supermarkets. Southern Family will purchase 31 store locations to operate, and the other 25 will be liquidated.

The UFCW and Bruno's workers have been working to help preserve as many good jobs as possible since news of the bankruptcy first surfaced. At the initial filing in February, it was unclear that any purchasers would be interested or that any jobs at all would be preserved. The sale is the best outcome in an unfortunate situation, since now many workers will get to keep their jobs—and their union wages and benefits. The UFCW is working with employees at the Bruno's stores that will be liquidated, to help them file for unemployment and try to find jobs elsewhere. **OP**

### UFCW Local 7 Members Mobilize for a Fair Contract

Members of UFCW Local 7 in Colorado working at Safeway, Albertson's, and King Soopers/City Market are informed and activated to protect good wages and affordable, quality health care.



Although these companies are profitable even in this tough economy, they seem determined to take advantage of the current economic situation to undercut good grocery jobs in Colorado. For more info, visit [www.groceryworkersunited.org](http://www.groceryworkersunited.org), or [www.alwayshereforcolorado.com](http://www.alwayshereforcolorado.com). **OP**

**Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), center, with UFCW Executive Vice President and Director of Organizing Pat O'Neill, right, and UFCW International Vice President and Local 1102\* President Frank Bail at a meeting with New York UFCW local unions.**

