

UFCW Local 400 Members Meet with President Obama on Health Care Reform



President Obama held an intimate, town hall meeting on health care exclusively for UFCW Local 400 Kroger workers at the Bristol, Virginia, grocery store.

UFCW Local 400 grocery workers at Kroger in Bristol, Virginia, met with President Obama last week to talk about health care. The President spoke about the need for health care reform and answered questions from Kroger workers in the audience.

“UFCW members have sacrificed to protect quality health care at the bargaining table,” said UFCW Local 400 President Jim Lowthers. “Reform has got to level the playing field and put an end to irresponsible employers freeloading their health care onto responsible companies.”

Local 400 members were excited to host the town hall meeting at their grocery store and talk about one of the most important issues facing working families.

“Like President Obama says, health care reform can’t wait. We need a health care system that covers everyone and brings down costs now,” said UFCW Local 400 member Vera Lewis, a floral designer at the Bristol Kroger.

UFCW Local 400 member and deli worker Missy Faulkner, who said she typically votes Republican, was impressed that President Obama brought the issue down to earth so she could better grasp his plan which includes a public option.

“He was sincere and he broke everything down where everybody could understand it,” Faulkner said. “And he’s not going to make everyone take a public plan. It’s an option if you want it.”

To watch the video of the town hall meeting, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4b-9tDyYGE>.

In conjunction with the event, UFCW Locals 27, 400, and 1994 released a radio ad supporting President Obama’s plan for health care that urged listeners to contact their representatives with their support. These locals then coordinated with UFCW Local 770 at their request to produce a similar ad for the California market. Listen to the UFCW Local 27/400/1994 radio ad at http://www.ufcw.tv/Audio/RadioSpot_400.mp3. **OP**

WakeUpWalMart.com and Wal-Mart Watch Campaigns Unite for Greater Voice for Walmart Workers

On Friday, UFCW and SEIU announced that Wal-Mart Watch has joined with WakeUpWalMart.com to form one organization and strengthen the ability for Walmart workers to win a voice on the job and bring change to the retail industry. The UFCW’s WakeUpWalMart.com will run all aspects of the campaign and will have control of Wal-Mart Watch’s large activist list and files.

UFCW International President Joe Hansen said, “Walmart workers across America are standing up and demanding change, and the UFCW is standing with them to achieve the health care and labor law reforms that will restore and expand the middle class. The UFCW is the labor union for retail workers and we will not let Walmart, as the world’s largest retailer, shirk its responsibility to the 1.4 million employees who work for the company.”

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Uniting Wal-Mart Watch with WakeUpWalMart.com will:

- Unite hundreds of thousands of activists from online and in communities across the country to support Walmart workers with one voice.
- Strengthen efforts to pass the Employee Free Choice Act and ensure passage of meaningful health care reform to hold employers like Walmart accountable. **OP**

Health Care Talking Points

How bad is the misinformation circulating on health care and the President's plan for reform? Recently a man stood up at a town hall meeting and told Rep. Bob Inglis to "keep your government hands off my Medicare." Though the South Carolina Republican tried to explain Medicare is already a government program, it fell on deaf ears. Meaningful reform is facing such gross misinformation that we must seize every opportunity to inform our members with facts while urging them to contact their representatives to support reform.

MYTH: The Democrats' plan for reform promotes "euthanasia for the elderly."

TRUTH: The House bill includes language that offers senior citizens free counseling meant to answer any possible end-of-life questions they may have. The counseling is voluntary and will provide professional, knowledgeable, and compassionate information to seniors on such issues as will preparation, medical power of attorney, resuscitation wishes, palliative care, etc. With all this information, patients—or families—can play a role in deciding which treatments to pursue.

MYTH: The public plan will result in the government rationing health care.

TRUTH: Private insurance companies ration care to Americans every single day. They reject applications based on pre-existing conditions and family history, and rescind coverage after an illness has been diagnosed. Their premiums and deductibles are so high that millions of Americans are forced to delay care or declare

REMINDER: Health Care Action for August

UFCW locals must intensify action during the August recess by holding or participating in local health care events. Please coordinate with your UFCW HCAN Regional/Council/Division

Coordinators:

Reg. 1 – Christina Hajagos-Clausen

Reg. 2 – Regina Hicks

Reg. 4 – John Marrone

Reg. 5 – Billy Myers

Reg. 6 – Scott Graser

Reg. 8 – Brad Edwards

RWDSU – Dave Mertz

Distillery – George Orlando

Chemical – Frank Cyphers

Textile – Tim Fitzpatrick

bankruptcy. Under health care reform, decisions would be made, not by for-profit insurance companies, but by doctors and other health experts looking at medical evidence to determine which treatments work best for particular patients. **OP**



Members of UFCW Local 86D in Muscatine, Iowa, are standing strong on the picket line after being locked out by their employer, Grain Processing Corp., for nearly a year. While the lockout has been hard on families and the community, spirits remain high for workers trying to get by with the help of local programs and the union's hardship fund. **OP**