

From Wisc. to Ind. to Ohio, UFCW Members Join Nationwide Fight to Save the Middle Class

In their coordinated efforts to strip working Americans of their basic rights to join together and collectively bargain to improve their livelihoods, Republicans and their Big Business friends are facing unprecedented resistance in State Capitols across the country.

The mass protests that erupted last week, in Madison, Wisc., in the wake of Governor Scott Walker's unjustified insistence on taking away workers' collective bargaining rights, have now spread to State Capitols in Ohio and Indiana.

UFCW members, alongside other union members, are joining the fight and are saying no to the union busting tactics used by Republicans under the false pretense of balancing state budgets. Despite having nurtured the conditions then watched idly while their Wall Street friends wrecked our economy, contributing greatly to the financial mess most states find themselves in, Republican legislators and their spin machines are now using union members as scapegoats.

Working families understand that we have to stand together and beat these attacks. UFCW members in Wis-

BREAKING NEWS: Workers Score Major Victory in Indiana Right-To-Work Fight

The *Indianapolis Star* reported this afternoon that Republicans have killed the controversial labor bill that has sparked a Democrat work-stoppage and large union protests at the Statehouse. The proposed bill would bar companies and unions from negotiating a contract that would require non-union employees to pay a fee for representation.

Thank you for all your hard work on this important victory! Just remember, we haven't reached the finish line yet - "Senate President Pro Tempore David Long (R-Fort Wayne), said that he, Bosma (R-Indianapolis) and Daniels all agree that the matter instead should be studied by a legislative committee later this year," the newspaper said.

Visit <http://www.indystar.com/article/20110223/NEWS05/102230396/Senate-leader-says-right-work-bill-dead?odyssey=mod|breaking|text|IndyStar.com> for more on the story.



consin, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and nationwide are at the forefront of the battle against anti-worker initiatives because, what's at stake is more than unions and workers' rights.

This movement is about the future of our country. It's about working families coming together to protect good jobs in our communities and save the middle class.

Much is happening around you and you can be a part of history by joining the fight to protect what has made this country great: the middle class.

For more information on what is happening in your state and what you can do to help, visit <http://www.ufcwaction.org/>. **OP**



Current and Former Walmart Associates Testify at NYC City Council Hearing on Walmart's Labor Practices

Current and former Walmart associates testified on Thursday, February 17 before the New York City Council at a hearing about Walmart's labor practices. The company's desire to open stores in NYC has dominated headlines for weeks. Sandra Carpenter, Ernestine Bassett, and Kenny James, testified about the culture of fear, intimidation, and disrespect they have experienced at Walmart.

"For the comfort of everyone around me, I needed those brief trips to the restroom," said Bassett, speaking about her need to take restroom breaks to manage her diabetes. "But my manager would just tell me that I wasn't allowed to go until she decided it was ok. It made me feel like a child to have to ask to use the restroom, and since the answer was usually 'no,' I began to feel more and more demoralized and humiliated."

For more information about New York's opposition to Walmart and to get involved, visit walmartfreenyc.com. **OP**

As a longtime and proud partner of Faces of Our Children, the UFCW Minority Coalition is encouraging donations to help improve the lives of families with sickle cell disease and ultimately eradicate the disease. To donate, please make your tax deductible donation payable to Faces of Our Children and mail to the following address:



Faces of Our Children, 1920 L Street, NW,
Suite 301, Washington, DC 20032

UFCW Locals in Mich. Hold Lobby Day, Stand Up To Anti-Worker Legislation

UFCW members from locals across Michigan held their first 2011 Lobby Day this past February 10, to urge legislators to stand up for working families and vote against two anti-worker bills introduced by house Republicans. Over 150 members of UFCW Locals 876 and 951 voiced their strong opposition to HB 4158, which would repeal the state's item pricing law, and HB 4054 which would allow for the establishment of right-to-work zones. These anti-worker initiatives were among the first bills introduced by the new Republican-controlled Michigan legislature.

"Big Business spent a tremendous amount of resources getting these politicians elected, and now they want to be paid back with legislation that will put more money in their pockets at the expense of working families," Roger Robinson, Local 876 President, said. "UFCW members went to the State Capitol to explain to their legislators how they, and thousands of their other constituents, hard working Michiganders, would be negatively impacted by the proposed legislation."

UFCW members, some of whom traveled over 200 miles to the State Capitol, were eager to share their thoughts with their state representatives and senators.

"I came out today because I want to preserve good jobs for all workers, not just union members, but all working people," said UFCW member Roger Oman. "Our new Republican governor talks about creating jobs, but these bills would destroy good paying jobs and cause thousands of workers to lose their jobs if passed."

"This isn't just about union members," UFCW member James Frazier said. "Repealing item pricing will

put many people, too many, out of work, not just union members. Right-to-work would reduce the standard of living for everyone in Michigan, because everyone's wages and benefits would tumble, not just union members without strong unions in our state."

UFCW members' Lobby Day efforts were applauded by Michigan House Democratic Leader, Rep. Richard Hammel.

"Thank you for taking the time to come here to speak out on behalf of all workers. It was great to see so many gold shirts here today," he told the group. "Whether or not your legislator appeared to be on your side, know that it makes a big impact to personally hear from a constituent telling you what a piece of legislation means to him or her. As you know, we have a real fight on our hands. Thank you for putting a face on that fight."

Due to the intensity of this fight, this was likely the first of several Lobby Days the group will conduct in 2011.

"We plan to visit the capitol as often as necessary to protect the foundation of thriving families and strong communities, good jobs," Marv Rusow, Local 951 President, said. "The UFCW and its members in Michigan know that this is going to be a tough fight, but one we are committed to seeing through to the end." **OP**



Local 1994 Members Fight Back Against County's Unwillingness to Bargain in Good Faith

Hundreds of members from UFCW Local 1994/Municipal & County Government Employees Organization (MCGEO) rallied on Friday, February 18, 2011, to



express their support for their negotiating team in light of Montgomery County's failure to treat the workers' proposals seriously.

Negotiations for a new contract covering Montgomery County workers came to an impasse earlier last week because of the county administration's efforts to slash county worker wages, benefits and collective bargaining rights.

Local 1994 members, and their supporters including Local 400, in gold shirts vowed to fight until the voice of some 7,500 county workers, most of whom are career, seasonal, substitute and temporary employees, is heard.

"The County administration doesn't care about us," said a county corrections officer and a Local 1994 member on the bargaining team. "To them, you're just a body that can be replaced."

Local 1994 made considerable concessions at the bargaining table and even put forward proposals that would restructure the cost of pension and health care. The proposals, which would help the county save as much as \$26 million, were dismissed by county officials. **OP**

Marsh to Pay Over \$40,000 to Dismissed Marsh Workers Seeking Voice on Job with Local 700

Marsh Supermarkets in Indiana, owned by the Florida-based private equity group Sun Capital Partners, Inc., this week settled for over \$40,000 in a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) case brought by the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 700. Charged with firing two workers because they were trying to organize a union, Marsh has agreed to pay a total of \$42,500 to the two workers and to not interfere with any attempt by employees to form a union.

Notable in this case is that Sun Capital settled with the NLRB after the agency filed a 10-J injunction case in federal court. The Board asked the court to enjoin the private equity group from threatening, interrogating and coercing its workers or discouraging them from forming a union. If the case had not settled and the court issued the injunction order, the penalty for violating worker rights would have been contempt of court and not just an NLRB notice posting.

"The workers who unjustly lost their jobs will be made whole by this settlement," said UFCW Local 700 President Joe Chorpenning. "What's more, the settlement requires Marsh to inform its employees that they have the right to form, join, and assist a union under federal law, and to commit to not interfering with, restraining, or coercing its employees in any way that deters them from exercising their rights to join a union and have a voice on the job." **OP**