

OUR Walmart Members and Community Allies Support Living Wage Bill



OUR Walmart and community allies hold an action in D.C. to support the Large Retailer Accountability Act to increase the minimum wage for workers.

Last week, Washington, D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray vetoed the Large Retailer Accountability Act (LRAA) which would have required big box retailers to pay a \$12.50 per hour minimum wage.

D.C. residents from neighborhoods throughout the city took their calls for fair wages and good jobs to the D.C. City Council today in light of the override vote of Mayor Gray's veto of the LRAA. The bill has been recognized by local residents, Council Members, policy experts, and economists as a bill that would help improve jobs and bolster the local economy.

At noon today, hundreds of people – including OUR Walmart, UFCW Local 400, AFL-CIO, OUR DC, DC Jobs with Justice, and other community supporters rallied for an override. The rally comes as Walmart workers in the D.C. area and nationwide have increased their calls to improve jobs at the country's largest employer. Last week, 100 workers and supporters were arrested when refusing to end their calls for better jobs at Walmart.

Today, the D.C. City Council failed to override Mayor Gray's veto of the LRAA. The bill faced fierce opposition from the world's largest retailer, Walmart, which threatened to cancel three of six stores planned for D.C. if the LRAA was passed. The threat was made despite the fact Walmart had promised residents and elected officials it would pay a wage of \$13 an hour to workers if the stores were approved.

Despite falling short of success, the wage ordinance has boosted living wage efforts across the country.

Less than a week ago, the California Legislature approved raising the state's minimum wage from \$8 an hour to \$10 by 2016. This fall, New Jersey voters will vote on a referendum that would raise their state's minimum wage to \$8.25 an hour. And the Minnesota Legislature is moving toward passage of its own minimum wage increase.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, if the federal minimum wage had kept pace with the cost of living over the past 40 years, it would be \$10.74 an hour today, not \$7.25

A report from the national public policy center Demos shows that better jobs at Walmart and other large retailers would help the store's bottom line, as well as have an impact on individual families and the larger economy. A wage floor equivalent of \$25,000 per year for a full-time, year-round employee for retailers with more than 1000 employees would lift 1.5 million retail workers and their families out of poverty, add to economic growth, increase retail sales and create more than 100,000 new jobs. The Demos report can be found at <http://bit.ly/QRHf0m>.

New polling shows that voters overwhelmingly support the LRAA. Seventy-one percent of voters voiced their support in a survey conducted this weekend, with large majorities saying the bill will have positive effects not only on workers' wages, but also on jobs, employment and the local economy. Additionally, 63 percent of voters said that they would be more likely to support a mayoral candidate in 2014 who supports the LRAA.

The survey of D.C. voters on the LRAA can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/184lksm> and the survey results are available at <http://bit.ly/14aoFVv>. **OP**

UFCW Members Continue to Push Congress for Comprehensive Immigration Reform



UFCW International Vice President Esther Lopez participated in a civil disobedience on Capitol Hill, where more than 100 women were arrested while protesting for comprehensive immigration reform.

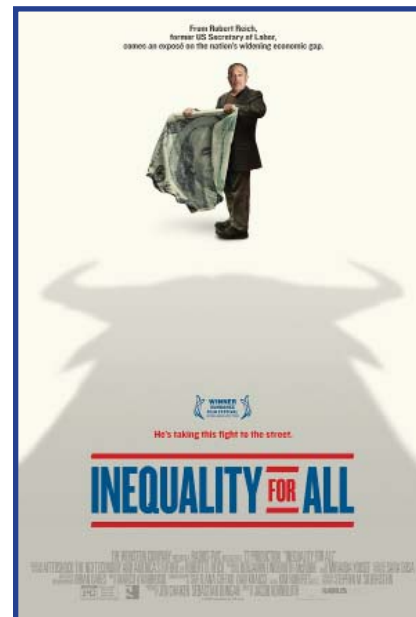
UFCW International Vice President and Director of the Civil Rights and Community Action Department Esther Lopez was arrested last Thursday as part of a historic action to call attention to the need for comprehensive immigration reform. The protestors, which included over 100 women—half of them noncitizens—blockaded an intersection outside the House of Representatives. The goal of the civil disobedience was to spread the message that women and children constitute three-quarters of immigrants and disproportionately bear the burden of a failed immigration system.

The protest comes at a critical time in the fight for reform. Months have passed since the Senate approved its own bill and pressure is mounting for the House to follow suit. Throughout August, UFCW members went to town hall-style meetings, participated in marches and rallies, and visited Congressional offices to create the momentum for comprehensive immigration reform. During that time, 26 House Republicans announced their support for reform with a roadmap to citizenship.

UFCW members will continue to ramp up pressure on the House throughout the fall until they allow a vote on common sense reform that protects the rights of immigrants, keeps families together, and creates a path to citizenship for aspiring Americans.

As delegates to the UFCW's 7th Regular Convention in Chicago chanted last month, the "time is now." A video about the impact pro-reform advocates had during the Congressional summer recess can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/18vSvas>. **OP**

New Film "Inequality for All" Sends Message of Wage Gap and Middle Class Struggles



Robert Reich's film "Inequality for All" showcases the widening income gap and its devastating impact on the middle class and the American economy.

Robert Reich's new film "Inequality for All" argues on behalf of the middle class. "Inequality for All" features Reich – professor, best-selling author, and Clinton cabinet member - as he demonstrates how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy.

The film is an intimate portrait of a man whose lifelong goal remains protecting those who are unable to protect themselves. Through his singular perspective, Reich explains how the massive

consolidation of wealth by a precious few threatens the viability of the American workforce and the foundation of democracy itself.

A trailer for the film can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/1cymyQg>. The movie will be shown in theaters starting September 27th and a theater listing can be found at <http://bit.ly/193hzk2>. **OP**