



pay us and cutting our hours,” said Refugio Denicia, who has worked at Five Star Car Wash for 14 years.

“This owner has stopped paying some of the workers up to three weeks,” Denicia added. “He sends us home after we show and does not pay us the four hours required by law.”

Five Star is one of seven car washes that have voted to join a union since the WASH New York campaign launched nearly two years ago – and the only one that has not negotiated a contract. Six others, including two each owned by major car wash owners, have negotiated contracts that provided the carwash-eros with pay raises, personal days, and worker protections.

The RWDSU contracts are for three years and wages will ultimately hit a minimum of \$9.18 an hour, including tips. The workers also have job security, posted schedules and, for the first time, will get five days of paid time off a year, two personal days and increased holiday bonuses. **OP**

UFCW Responds to Gap’s Decision to Raise Wages

UFCW International President Joe Hansen released a statement regarding the Gap’s announcement that it would raise wages for its workers.

“The announcement by the Gap that the retail chain is raising hourly wages for its 65,000 hourly retail workers serves as a challenge to Walmart. The Gap realizes that paying its hourly workers enough to support themselves is an investment in their business and in our economy.

“It is time for Walmart to stand up and lead by investing back into its 1.4 million U.S. workers with hourly pay increases. Academics at the University of California-Berkeley estimated that Walmart could well afford a wage increase to at least \$12.00 an hour for workers with minimal impact on consumer prices. DEMOS researchers outlined a clear plan for Walmart to cut back on its stock buy back program and raise wages in a way that benefits workers and shareholders alike.

“The time is now for Walmart to show leadership and responsibility to its workers and our communities-follow the Gap’s example and raise wages for every hourly Walmart worker.” **OP**

New Poll Shows Growing Support for Raising Wages in 2014 Battleground States

APPEAL OF KEY WAGE ISSUES			
	Total More Likely To Vote %	Total Less Likely To Vote %	D/S ±
Crack down on corporations that cheat workers out of pay for hours they have worked	84	7	77
Allow employees to earn paid personal or family sick time based on their hours worked	76	6	70
Require companies that receive state contracts to pay their employees a living wage	74	8	66
Expand access to affordable child care for families with working parents	71	11	60
Require all employees to be paid at least the minimum wage, including farmworkers and workers who receive tips at their job	70	14	56
Prevent companies that consistently violate labor laws from receiving state contracts	70	18	52
Raise the state minimum wage to 10 dollars per hour	61	23	38

In five battleground states, a majority of voters feel that it should be an extremely important priority for the governor and legislature to “make sure that people are paid enough to support their families.”

A poll released last week found that 72 percent of voters in the 2014 battlegrounds of Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin believe raising wages is good for their state.

The UFCW has been at the forefront of this debate, calling on retailers like Walmart to pay their workers enough to support a family and lobbying for legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour. This battleground poll shows that raising wages is not just good policy, but also good politics. The poll can be found at <http://bit.ly/1fQsrAo>. **OP**

New Data from Bureau of Labor Statistics Shows Union Impact on Worker Wages

New data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) shows the difference being part of a union makes when it comes to worker wages. African Americans who were members of labor unions in 2013 had an average weekly wage of \$791. For African Americans who were not union members, the average weekly wage was \$606. Non union African American workers on average made only 76.6 percent of the wages of African American union members. For Whites, non union workers earned, on average, 80.7 percent of the wages of White union members.

The full report from the BLS can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.nr0.htm>. **OP**

UFCW Local 555 Member Shares Her Story, Makes a Difference for Grocery Workers



UFCW Local 555 shop steward Sarah DeMerritt (center) testified before the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee in support of a bill that would ease the penalties for those who unknowingly or inadvertently sell alcohol to a minor for the first time.

Earlier this month, during UFCW Local 555's Oregon Lobby Day, shop steward Sarah DeMerritt testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of legislation that would ease penalties for those who unknowingly or inadvertently sell alcohol to a minor for the first time.

In June of 2013, while working as a checker at Safeway in Lake Oswego, Oregon, she sold a six-pack of beer to someone she believed was of legal drinking age. But instead the customer was part of an Oregon Liquor Control Commission sting. A police officer interviewed and cited DeMerritt in her check stand as customers looked on.

"It was very humiliating," she said. Despite having more than 12 years on the job and no previous offenses, DeMerritt was fired and charged with a Class A Misdemeanor. "Why would I risk my health benefits, my job, my seniority, my life?" she told the committee. "I thought the customer looked old enough to purchase alcohol and was a familiar neighbor that I had carded and sold to in the past."

DeMerritt stressed that she takes her responsibility to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors very seriously and had passed all previous stings. Senate Bill 1546 would make penalties for first time offenders more proportional.

Yesterday, the Oregon House passed this legislation, joining the Senate in giving it overwhelming support. Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber said he will sign it into law.

"I do not want other employees to have this experience," DeMerritt said. "I do not want them to have to fight so hard." By having the courage to share her story, DeMerritt is helping make the system fairer for all grocery workers in Oregon. **OP**

Rising Up in Retail Facebook Page Launched for Retail Workers



The new Rising Up in Retail Facebook page is a place where retail workers can engage online about the challenges and issues they face.

can mobilize by helping each other improve their jobs while also building a larger network of workers and activists who support retail worker issues.

Please like and join the Facebook page and take an important first step in empowering retail workers and engaging them in dialogue around the issues important to them. **OP**

A Facebook page has been launched as a place for retail workers to engage in online discussions about the challenges and issues they face in their stores and share solutions.

The Facebook page can be found at <http://on.fb.me/1mvS9o4> and is also a place where union and non-union workers