

UFCW Releases 2013 Congressional Scorecard



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The UFCW has released a scorecard for the first session of the 113th Congress. Members of both the House and Senate were graded on a series of bills that impacted workers and their families. The House of Representatives scorecard included measures to gut workers' rights, end the government shutdown, and reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

The Senate scorecard included votes on comprehensive immigration reform, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and the confirmation of both Secretary of Labor Tom Perez and three pro-worker nominees to the National Labor Relations Board.

The UFCW is committed to holding elected officials accountable for their actions. To see how members of Congress voted, visit www.ufcwaction.org/scorecard. **OP**

Global Day of Action will Mark Anniversary of Rana Plaza Garment Building Collapse in Bangladesh

Making Change at Walmart is joining Jobs with Justice, the International Labor Rights Forum, and community allies from around the world on April 24, in a day of action to stand in solidarity with garment workers in Bangladesh. One year after the Rana Plaza building collapse killed at least 1,138 people and injured more than 2,500 in the worst garment industry catastrophe in history, concerned citizens around the world will demand that Walmart and other apparel brands and retailers pay full and fair compensation to the victims of the Rana Plaza collapse.



Leading up to the Global Day of Action for the Rana Plaza disaster in Bangladesh on April 24, UFCW Locals 888 and 1500 held an action to call on retailers to do more to help the victims of the factory disasters.

The day of action will call on Walmart and other retailers to take responsibility and to pay their fair share of compensation to the survivors and families who lost loved-ones.

The action will also call on Walmart to pay compensation to the victims of the Tazreen factory fire, which took place on November 24, 2012, and where Walmart was the largest purchaser. The fire killed 112 workers and was the deadliest fire in the Bangladesh garment industry.

Demonstrations will take place at Walmart stores around the country. For more information, visit www.walmartdeathtraps.com.

Locals can participate in the Global Day of Action by:

1. Organizing or joining a demonstration at a Walmart store near you. Visit www.walmartdeathtraps.com and <http://bit.ly/RanaAction> closer to the date for action listings.

Action ideas:

- Leafleting in front of the store and letter delivery to store manager. Visit www.walmartdeathtraps.com for sample flyer and letter.
 - Die-in in front of the store. Protestors drape themselves in white sheets and lie on the sidewalk in front of the store with signs demanding the company pay compensation.
2. Post on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media asking the company to pay the money owed to the victims and about the Global Day of Action. On the company's Facebook wall, post a photo of members holding a sign calling on the company to Pay Up. Members can also follow Twitter: [#ranaplaza](https://twitter.com/ranaplaza) [#payup](https://twitter.com/payup) [@orphansplace](https://twitter.com/orphansplace) [@ILRF](https://twitter.com/ILRF).

3. Locals can send an e-blast about the Global Day of Action, asking supporters to join an action and spread the message on social media. For more information, email Liana Foxvog at International Labor Rights Forum at liana@ilrf.org.

Locals can also start taking action before April 24 by using the materials from the Jobs with Justice toolkit that can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/April24Kit>.

UFCW Locals 888 and 1500 held an action with Rana Plaza survivor Aklima Khanam and community allies in New Jersey last week. The crowd of more than 50 people protested in front of Children's Place retail headquarters and Walmart stores in hopes of bringing attention to the horrific working conditions and ask that these companies do more to help the victims. A video of the action can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/NJVideo>. **OP**

UFCW Local 876 Rite Aid Pharmacy Workers Ratify a New Agreement

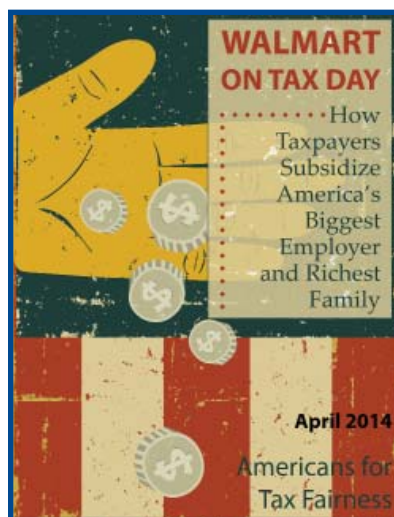
Yesterday, UFCW Local 876 Rite Aid Pharmacy workers voted to ratify a new, three-year agreement.

The contract guarantees 7% wage increases for all members over the course of the contract and also protects pension and health care benefits, and preserves all current holiday, vacation, and personal days. Nearly 800 Rite Aid Pharmacy workers across 77 retail stores in Michigan are members of UFCW Local 876. **OP**



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Taxpayers Deliver \$7.8 Billion Tax Bill to Walmart Chairman



A new report explains how Walmart uses taxpayers to receive tax breaks and tax subsidies to boost profits.

programs like food stamps and Medicaid. The full report can be read at <http://bit.ly/WMTaxes>.

The taxpayers hand-delivered the bill to Walton's home in Paradise Valley, outside Phoenix.

"Like most Americans, I work hard, pay my taxes and play by the rules. Why can't America's richest family pay their fair share of taxes like the rest of us," said Venanzi Luna, a Walmart worker who undersigned the bill. Walmart made a \$16 billion profit in 2013, and the six Walton heirs, who own more than 50% of Walmart shares, saw their wealth grow to \$148.8 billion—more wealth than 49% of American families combined.

The report by Americans for Tax Fairness found that, "...the American public is providing enormous tax breaks and tax subsidies to Walmart and the Walton family, further boosting corporate profits and the family's already massive wealth at everyone else's expense."

The breakdown provided in the report showed where the estimated \$7.8 billion in subsidies and tax breaks occurred.

- Walmart receives an estimated \$6.2 billion annually in mostly federal taxpayer subsidies. Walmart pays its employees so little that many of them rely on food stamps, healthcare and other taxpayer-funded programs.



- Walmart avoids an estimated \$1 billion in federal taxes each year. It uses tax breaks, loopholes, and a strategy known as accelerated depreciation that allows it to write off capital investments considerably faster than the assets actually wear out.

- The Waltons avoided an estimated \$607 million in federal taxes on their Walmart dividends which are taxed at a much lower rate than income from salaries and wages.

The report also estimated that \$7.8 billion is enough to hire 105,000 new public school teachers.

“Many Walmart workers like me are struggling to cover the basics even though we’re working at the country’s largest employer,” said Anthony Goytia. Goytia has been working at Walmart for two years and sometimes relies on food stamps and Medicaid because he is not getting the hours he needs.

“Even though Walmart is making \$16 billion in profits, the Waltons seem to think the American people should be providing them another \$8 billion in tax breaks. When the richest family in America isn’t paying its fair share, it’s no wonder that our children’s schools, our roads and basic public programs are getting cut left and right.”

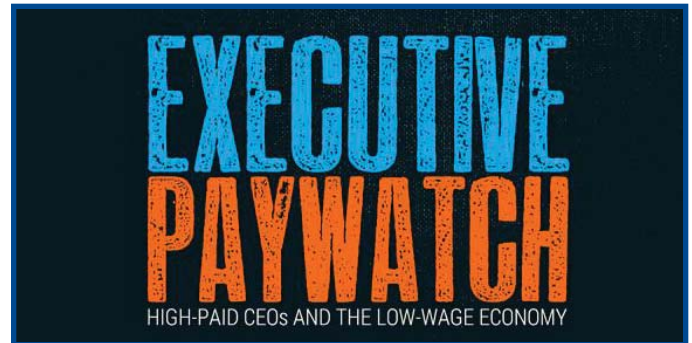
Marketplace recently revealed that Walmart is the biggest beneficiary of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, otherwise known as food stamps. Walmart takes 18% of all food stamp dollars-or \$13 billion in revenue. **OP**

AFL-CIO Releases 2014 Executive PayWatch Series

Today, the AFL-CIO unveiled the 2014 Executive PayWatch report. According to the data, U.S. CEOs pocketed, on average, \$11.7 million in 2013 compared to the average worker who earned \$35,293. That means CEOs were paid 331 times that of the average worker.

Many of the CEOs highlighted in PayWatch head companies like Walmart. In 2013, CEOs made 774 times more than those who work for minimum wage. And while many of these companies argue that they can’t afford to raise wages, the nation’s largest companies are earning higher profits per employee than they did five years ago. In 2013, the S&P 500 Index companies earned \$41,249 in profits per employee, a 38% increase.

This year, PayWatch highlights five low wage companies through worker testimonials at Walmart, Kellogg’s, Reynolds, Darden Restaurants and T-Mobile.



The AFL-CIO 2014 Executive PayWatch report shows that the U.S. CEOs were paid 331 times more than the average worker.

“CEO Executive PayWatch calls attention to the insane level of compensation for CEOs, while the workers who create those corporate profits struggle for enough money to take care of the basics,” said AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “This database is relevant to every community in the country. And we’ll use this data to organize and mobilize to lift millions of workers out of poverty and to strengthen the middle class,” said Trumka.

PayWatch can be found at <http://bit.ly/PayWatch2014>. PayWatch is a comprehensive searchable online database tracking the excessive pay of CEOs of the nation’s largest companies. **OP**

Making Change at Walmart Communication Materials on Recent Victories Available Online

Last week, Making Change at Walmart and OUR Walmart members celebrated when Walmart announced two major policy shifts as a result of their campaigns. One will allow workers to get more hours when they want them, another will ensure that pregnant women are given some basic accommodations that will help them keep their jobs and provide for their families. Both of these victories prove that change is possible at Walmart.

To help amplify these victories, template communication materials are available online. These materials will help define the story that these policy changes are the result of workers and community supporters calling for change at the major retailer.

The materials can be found at <http://bit.ly/WMCommMat> and include sample op-eds, letters to the editor, and talking points locals can use for media engagement. The templates are written so that locals can easily input their information. **OP**