

UFCW Locals Take Whole Foods CEO to Task for His Efforts to Undermine Health Care Reform



Members and staff from UFCW Local 135 handed out information to Whole Foods customers at a La Jolla, California, store last week to let them know the company's founder and CEO is trying to undermine meaningful health care reform.

UFCW members and staff across the country quickly responded to Whole Foods CEO John Mackey's radical attack on health care reform by hand billing customers at the organic grocer. UFCW Locals 21, 75, 99, 135, 324, 371, 400, 648, 711, 770, 1059, 1442, 1445, 1500, and 1564 recently took action with health care activists and other labor groups to set the record straight about health care reform and to raise serious concerns about Mackey's position on such a critical issue.

Mackey recently published an op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal* that included extremist ideology like health care is not an inherent right, as well as scare tactics to mislead Americans about the President's position. The informational events highlight the conflict between

Mackey's assertions and the progressive brand image that Whole Foods has built.

The events and a "Boycott Whole Foods" Facebook group with 28,000 plus members have grabbed media headlines across the country while pushing the health care debate. Many more UFCW local unions are planning informational events at Whole Foods stores this week, which will be featured in next week's edition of OnPoint.

Send a letter online calling for the removal of John Mackey as CEO of Whole Foods at www.mackeysgottago.org. The website has more information on the campaign and includes a link to Mackey's op-ed. **OP**



UFCW Local 711 activists in Las Vegas, Nevada, hand billed customers at a Whole Foods store on Friday, August 21.

New Jersey Workers at Catelli Brothers Win a Voice with UFCW Local 152
Approximately 150 workers at Catelli Brothers in Pennsauken, New Jersey, voted for a voice with UFCW Local 152 on Friday, August 21.

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Workers at the lamb and veal processing facility have gone through three prior elections, but Local 152 President Brian String attributes this campaign's success to the strength of the workers.

"Workers have been feeling the squeeze of eroded wages and conditions at the plant over the years. During this campaign, they realized the only way they could get decent wages, benefits, and working conditions was through a union voice," said String. "We look forward to bargaining a first contract that will improve the lives of these workers and their families."

The company supplies high-quality products to many supermarkets, including UFCW-represented employers in the region like Kroger, Acme, A&P, ShopRite, and Pathmark. **OP**

Workers Win Representation with Chemical Workers Union Council and UFCW in Two Plant Victories

Workers at Corrosion Control in Mulberry, Florida, recently voted for representation with the International Chemical Workers Union Council (ICWUC) and UFCW Local 1625. The unit of 25 sandblasters and industrial painters has already ratified their first contract.

The ICWUC had another victory when 26 workers at Texas Gas in Southern Louisiana won a voice with Local 187C on Friday. UFCW International Vice President and ICWUC President Frank Cyphers says the organizing win is important to the many gas workers already represented by the ICWUC, as well as to organizing non-union Texas Gas workers who had been watching the election. **OP**

UFCW Local 99 Members Stand Together in Bargaining with Safeway and Kroger

UFCW Local 99 grocery workers across Arizona have helped their employers make enormous profits, even during the current recession. But Safeway and Kroger don't want to share their success, and workers can't afford to have insufficient wage increases after years of

sacrifice to keep their employers competitive and profitable.

The companies' proposals have included inadequate wage increases and high premiums for health care, which would result in workers taking a wage cut in order to pay for their health care. Local 99 members continue to work under their current contract that has been extended to October 3, with negotiations scheduled into September. **OP**

Health Care Reform Talking Points

Americans are confused about what health care reform means. Research shows that most Americans—even those with higher education—don't have the time or inclination to understand complicated health care policy. We have to remain consistent in these key messages that resonate most with the public:

- American workers must have access to plans that are affordable. There is overwhelming support for "affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans."
- Reform will ensure that Americans will not be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions and that families will not have to declare bankruptcy for medical bills.
- American workers must have a choice of enrolling in a public health insurance plan. The public option will provide stability and enable patients to keep their own doctor, regardless of changes in employment or health.
- The public option is a vital part of bringing down the cost of health care and providing competition to profit-driven insurance companies. The public health insurance option does not do away with private, employer-provided insurance, but instead offers individuals more choices for a health plan that works best for them.
- We need an American solution that shares responsibility among the government, employers and individuals. **OP**