

# LOCAL 1473

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## **UFCW Local 1473 Statement on Passage of Right to Work in Wisconsin**

“Just days after comparing union members to foreign terrorists and four years after limiting the collective bargaining rights of public employees, Governor Scott Walker today signed legislation that will lower wages and standards for workers across the State of Wisconsin.

“This is a sad day for our state. Right to Work is a ploy to take away the voice of workers. From refusing to expand BadgerCare for the sick, to enacting tax cuts for the rich, gutting education, slashing funding for State parks, stripping the Natural Resources Board’s authority and consolidating control over the environment into the hands of a few hand-picked politicians and eroding collective bargaining rights for working people – Gov. Walker has shown a true disregard for Wisconsin families. It does nothing to create jobs, attract businesses, or grow the economy. In fact, when it comes to overall quality of life, right to work states rank among the worst.

“This is a transparent attempt to gut private sector unions in the State of Wisconsin. But we at UFCW Local 1473 remain optimistic. By signing Right to Work, Gov. Walker continues to tip the scales against working class families in favor of his out of state millionaire and billionaire buddies who fund his campaign. Gov. Walker’s political stock amongst the campaign funding elite may be rising, but it is the people of Wisconsin who are paying the price of his unchecked political ambition. “UFCW Local 1473 members understand that workers in unions earn higher wages, receive better benefits, and have more job security. In addition, women, people of color, immigrants, and LGBT workers all have far more protections in a union. In other words, our members know from experience the inherent value of their union contract.

Wisconsin citizens should ask the Governor, who called for this Right to Work law? Not workers and not our State’s employers who went on record to acknowledge the value unions bring to their companies. It’s time Scott Walker wakes up from his dream of higher office long enough to remember who he took an oath to serve – the working families of Wisconsin not extremist out-of-state donors.

“Today Governor Walker placed himself on the wrong side of history. Collective action is on the rise. From retail stores to meatpacking plants to public schools and ports, workers are standing together and demanding respect on the job. This law will only embolden our movement to organize more workers, bargain better contracts, and hold the corporations and politicians that seek to destroy us accountable. UFCW Local 1473 and all of labor will emerge from this stronger and more united than ever.”

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