

Resolution #6

Walmart Contributions

By Delegate Ronald E. Powell, UFCW Local 881



WHEREAS, Walmart Stores Inc. has at least 80 class-action lawsuits in 41 states pending, 76 of which stem from wage and off-the-clock issues, according to Walmart's recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission; and

WHEREAS, Walmart Stores Inc. is the target of a class action lawsuit at the center of the largest sexual discrimination case in U.S. history involving as many as two million women who were paid less than men and granted fewer promotions; and

WHEREAS, Walmart Stores Inc. provides fewer than half of its 1.4 million employees in the United States with health insurance forcing many of those employees to resort to public health assistance, or go without coverage; and

WHEREAS, The Wall Street Journal recently revealed Walmart's internal political drive to organize its managers to vote Republican in the November 2008 election as a strategy to defeat the Employee Free Choice Act, an important legislative priority for organized labor; and

WHEREAS, nationally 48 percent of Walmart's \$2.2 million in political contributions go to Democrats and 52 percent go to Republicans, according to 2008 figures compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics in efforts to increase the company's political influence; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Illinois AFL-CIO denounces, in the strongest possible terms, the acceptance of a Walmart political contribution by candidates and elected officials who receive the endorsement of the Illinois AFL-CIO; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any elected official or candidate who receives the endorsement of the Illinois AFL-CIO and accepts a political contribution from Walmart should return that contribution to the company as a gesture of decency and solidarity to working families; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the acceptance of a political contribution from Walmart symbolizes an acceptance of Walmart's irresponsible business practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Local Unions should unite in solidarity by advising any elected official or candidate to return the Walmart contribution and/or discontinue political support of that elected official or candidate due to the extent and magnitude of Walmart's practices that have significantly lowered standards for all American workers.

Michael T. Carrigan, President
Timothy E. Drea, Secretary Treasurer

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