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Contact:

Marcela Salazar | msalazar@skdknick.com | 202-567-1163

Bridget Bartol | bbartol@skdknick.com | 954-594-0689

Twitter: [@UFCW_7](https://twitter.com/UFCW_7)

Facebook: [UFCWLocal7R](https://www.facebook.com/UFCWLocal7R)

Instagram: [UFCW_LOCAL_7](https://www.instagram.com/UFCW_LOCAL_7)

KROGER DISREGARDS DANGERS ESSENTIAL GROCERY WORKERS FACE. STRIPS ‘HERO PAY’ AS COVID-19 CONTINUES TO SPREAD & KROGER’S PROFITS SOAR

Kroger Continues With Decision to Cut \$2/hr. ‘Hero Pay’ Starting May 17th, Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 of Kroger Workers Skyrockets Throughout Colorado

DENVER – Today, Kroger confirmed it would continue with its plan to eliminate \$2/hour Hero Pay starting this Sunday, May 17th, and instead are offering a tiered, one-time hero bonus to employees.

Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, issued the following statement:

“Instead of following the lead of other grocers and extending Hero Pay for the essential workers that kept their stores running while our cities and states were shut down, Kroger chose to cut their pay. These Essential Heroes have risked their health and the health of their families to keep Kroger stores open, the company rich, and our communities fed.

Now, they are trying to differentiate between full-time and part-time workers by providing them a tiered, one-time, buy-off payment. This completely disregards the fact that these frontline workers have equally been exposed to COVID-19 as they work amongst the general public—whether they are full or part time shouldn’t matter. The danger isn’t gone and has only increased. In just a week, confirmed cases for Kroger grocery workers in Colorado have jumped from 39 to 55. We expect this number to rise as more people stop sheltering-in-place.

Our members have been clear about what they need: increased safety measures, enforceable laws that require facemasks, access to testing and continued Hero Pay.

Yet, Kroger has not been clear with our members. It is time for Kroger to make a commitment to support workers for the entire pandemic and to make stores safer. That includes recognizing that their employees are Essential Heroes. The fight is not over, and UFCW Local 7 will continue to fight for Hero Pay.”

UFCW Local 7 represents more than 21,000 grocery workers in Colorado and Wyoming, more than 14,000 of whom are Kroger-employed members.

As confirmed COVID-19 cases for grocery workers continue to rise, Local 7 is [advocating on behalf of these Essential Heroes for enforceable state laws that would require customers to wear facemasks in stores.](#)

Additionally, the union calls on companies to improve safety measures, increase testing and maintain workers Hero Pay.

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[Local 7](#), the largest Union in Colorado is affiliated with United Food and Commercial Workers International Union which represents over 1.3 million workers in the United States and Canada, and is one of the largest private sector Unions in North America. UFCW members work in a wide range of industries, including retail food, food processing, agriculture, retail sales, and health care.