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UFCW LOCAL 7 DEMANDS THAT SAFEWAY/ALBERTSONS KEEP “APPRECIATION PAY” FOR ESSENTIAL GROCERY WORKERS

DENVER – Safeway-Albertsons’ grocery stores notified UFCW today that essential grocery workers will eliminate the \$2.00 an hour bonus called “Appreciation Pay.” Grocery store employees, deemed essential workers by the government, worked throughout the shutdown, risking their lives to keep their communities fed. These Essential Heroes continue to work with the general public, potentially exposing themselves and their families to coronavirus, as states reopen and infection rates begin to skyrocket again.

Kim Cordova, President of [UFCW Local 7](#), which represents more than 21,000 grocery workers in Colorado and Wyoming, issued the following statement:

“For almost four months, grocery workers have put their lives and their family's lives at risk to protect and serve the communities in a global pandemic. They do so because they care about their jobs and their livelihoods. Grocery companies, including Safeway/Albertsons, have seen record profits during this pandemic as customers who stay at home buy more groceries. Taking away these Essential Heroes’ hourly bonus of \$2 an hour shows a complete disregard for the dangers these workers face every day just to do their jobs.

As COVID-19 cases spike in communities across the United States it’s clear the danger has not gone away. We demand that Safeway/Albertsons reinstate Appreciation Pay for these frontline workers. UFCW Local 7 has over 100 grocery members who have tested positive for the virus and have lost three grocery members to COVID-19. We do not want to lose anymore and will continue to fight for our member’s safety and fair pay during this pandemic.”

In addition to the reinstatement of Appreciation Pay, the union continues to call on Safeway/Albertsons to provide their employees with the necessary PPE, testing, institute paid sick leave, and improve safety measures to keep both workers and customers safe.

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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.

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