



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UFCW LOCAL 7 CELEBRATES PAID SICK LEAVE AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION BILLS BEING SIGNED INTO LAW

The Union was a vocal advocate for The Healthy Families and Workplaces Act and Whistleblower Protection Public Health Emergencies that will better protect Colorado's workers and their families.

DENVER – Today, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 7 (UFCW 7), which represents more than 30,000 workers in Colorado and Wyoming, celebrates Colorado Governor Jared Polis' signing of SB-205 and his Saturday signing of HB 20-1415 into law.

The Healthy Families and Workplaces Act, SB 20-205 that was signed today, mandates that employers provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 48-hours a year. The Whistleblower Protection Public Health Emergencies, HB 20-1415 that was signed July 11, provides whistleblower protections for employees who speak out about concerns in workplace health and safety practices.

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

“Our members have been on the frontlines keeping the food supply chain secure, grocery stores stocked, and getting COVID testing sites up and running across Colorado. These workers, many of whom are deemed essential, have long faced the tough choice of earning a paycheck or staying home when sick. The Healthy Families and Workplaces Act will ease the financial uncertainty sick workers face and is a smart public health policy that will help prevent contagious diseases and deaths across the state.”

“Additionally, no one should be forced to work in an unsafe work environment and should be empowered to speak up to protect themselves, their colleagues, and the community--especially during a global pandemic. The Whistleblower Protection Public Health Emergencies, HB 20-1415, signed Saturday, will protect workers' rights to speak up when they see profit being put ahead of people's health. We thank Governor Polis for signing these vital pieces of legislation and protecting Colorado workers. The Union will continue to fight for a safer and better workplace for our members and all Coloradans.”

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Local 7, is the largest private-sector Union in Colorado and Wyoming. It is affiliated with the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union which represents over 1.3 million workers in the United States and Canada, 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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