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UFCW LOCAL 7 STATEMENT FOLLOWING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN'S INAUGURATION ADDRESS

Local 7 Emphasizes President Biden's Call for Unity, Urges Biden-Harris Administration to Support Essential Workers and Protect Dreamers

DENVER – President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris' Inauguration on January 20, 2021, came with a renewed call for unity as they face the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, an uncertain economy, and plan to address the growing inequities across our country.

As outlined in [President Biden's American Rescue Plan](#), the incoming administration is calling on large employers, especially in the retail and grocery sectors, to meet their obligations to the essential workers who have risked their lives to stock shelves, harvest crops, and care for the sick during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing generous back hazard pay for the risks they took across 2020 and up to today. Additionally, President Biden will be introducing a much-needed immigration reform bill to Congress to fulfill his promises to “restore dignity to our immigration system and our border policies and start the difficult but critical work of reuniting families separated at the border.”

Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, which represents more than 22,000 Essential Workers in health care, grocery, and meat processing, in Colorado and Wyoming, issued the following statement:

“It is going to take all of us, working together, to get through many crises we are facing. As the country looks to turn the page on the chaos of the past, UFCW Local 7 looks forward to working with the new administration to make sure that our essential workers receive the compensation and support they deserve during this pandemic, including hazard pay, a livable \$15 per hour minimum wage and paid sick leave.

“Essential workers risk their lives every day they go to work and deserve to be compensated generously for their sacrifice. Too many essential workers have been left to fend for themselves even as their jobs have become even more critical. We support President Biden's call to employers who have seen their profits grow during the pandemic to provide hazard pay to the essential workers keeping the country running and applaud its efforts to take action to protect our Dreamers from deportation by presenting a path to citizenship in its immigration reform bill.

“The investments outlined by the new administration to get the country back to recovery, like expanding the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, will provide additional support to millions of families risking their lives as essential workers. Additionally, proper PPE, access to accurate testing, and childcare support in his plan will give families the relief they so desperately need during these difficult times.”

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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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