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UFCW LOCAL 7 APPLAUDS REINTRODUCTION OF THE PRO ACT TO REVAMP LABOR LAWS

Local 7 Looking Forward To Pro Act Provisions Including Enforceable Penalties For Workers' Rights Violations, Expanded Bargaining Rights & Strengthening of Workers Access to Fair Union Elections

DENVER – Unions are critical to increasing wages and creating an economy that rewards hard-working families, but special interest-funded attacks on labor laws have eroded union membership in recent years. Today, Democratic members of the U.S. House and Senate, with support from the Colorado Democratic delegation, including Dianna DeGette (D-CO 1st District), Joe Neguse (D-CO 2nd District), Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO 6th District) and Ed Perlmutter (D-CO 7th District), reintroduced the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act to revamp labor rights for workers in Colorado and all around the country. The bill will protect workers' right to stand together and bargain for fairer wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces.

Kim Cordova, President of UFCW Local 7, which represents more than 25,000 workers in retail food, food processing, agriculture, retail sales, and health care in Colorado and Wyoming, issued the following statement:

“With big corporations and the very wealthy reaping most of the benefits of the American economy, I applaud the elected leaders for taking the bold step to address deteriorating workers' rights and inequality in our country by introducing the PRO Act. Today, only 10 percent of American workers are unionized, and this is due in large part to toothless policies implemented through the years to weaken worker's ability to organize. For too long, unions critical to increasing wages and creating an economy that rewards hard-working people has been under attack.

“But the COVID-19 pandemic has put on full display the need to uplift America's workers and make sure they have access to basic safety protections, including healthcare and hazard pay. This historic legislation will protect workers' fundamental right to join a union and address growing income inequality. Local 7 looks forward to working with our elected

officials in Colorado to reverse decades of legislation meant to crush unions. The time is now for the C-Suite and investors to share power and resources with the workers that are essential in allowing them to increase the bottom line.”

The Protecting the Right to Organize Act protects the basic right to join a union by:

1. Introducing meaningful, enforceable penalties for companies and executives that violate workers’ rights;
2. Expanding workers’ collective bargaining rights and closing loopholes that corporations use to exploit workers; and
3. Strengthening workers’ access to fair union elections and requiring corporations to respect the results.

For a fact sheet on the PRO Act, click [here](#).

For a section-by-section of the PRO Act, click [here](#).

For the bill text of the PRO Act, click [here](#).

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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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