

SPEAK OUT: New bill could end overtime pay in U.S.

In another attack on working families, the United States House of Representatives approved a bill last week that would allow employers to pay workers nothing for overtime work, other than the promise of compensatory time — “comp time” — that can only be used at the employer’s discretion.

This legislation, HR 1406, proposed by Republican House Majority Leader Eric Cantor and Rep. Martha Roby, is shrouded in misleading language, but is actually just another attempt by Republicans to get rid of paid overtime.

The bill passed in the House by a vote of 223-204, but the so-called Working Families Flexibility Act (HR 1406) must still be voted upon by the U.S. Senate. That’s why every working man and woman must fight these wolves in sheep’s clothing, and let our Senators know that there will be no more giveaways from the pockets of working men and women.

FLEXIBILITY FOR WHOM?

There’s nothing “flexible” about the bill dubbed the “Working Families Flexibility Act” (HR1406). The bill’s sponsors say it, would give employees the “freedom” to determine work schedules and time off. In reality, this bill would push more work for less pay.

The good news about the bill, according to AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker and Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wis.) is that it is unlikely this attack on workers’ pay will go further.

The Senate is not expected to take up the bill and the Obama administration says the president’s veto pen is ready even if it does pass.

Unfortunately, three Democratic repre-

sentatives voted for the bill—Reps. Collin Peterson (Minn.), Henry Cuellar (Texas) and Jim Matheson (Utah). On the other side, eight Republicans stood with working families and voted against the bill. They are Reps. Frank LoBiondo (N.J.), David Joyce (Ohio), Chris Smith (N.J.), Michael Grimm (N.Y.), Jon Runyan (N.J.), Don Young (Alaska), Pat Meehan (Pa.) and Richard Hanna (N.Y.).

Missouri Democrats Lacy Clay (Dist. 1) and Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (Dist. 5) voted against the bill. Missouri Republican Representatives Ann Wagner (2nd), Blaine Luetkemeyer (3rd), Vicky Hartzler (4th), Sam Graves (6th) and Billy Long (7th) voted for this terrible anti-worker bill.

Contact your United States Senator either online or by phone and let your voice be heard. Tell them to stop these attacks on working families, urges UFCW Local 655 President David Cook.

HOLD ONTO WHAT YOU’VE GOT

“Anytime House Republicans talk about flexibility, working families should reach for their wallets,” said Cook. “H.R. 1406 is just the latest scheme in the war on workers. This bill is an affront to the basic concept that a day’s work deserves a day’s wages paid in currency. It gives employers a clear incentive to push workers toward comp time instead of overtime pay.”

Cook said the bill could also create a scenario where workers find themselves in the awkward position of choosing between their employer’s wishes and their own need for a higher paycheck.

Fast food workers say ‘We can’t survive on \$7.35’

Most fast food workers throughout the state make minimum wage. That’s \$7.35 an hour, and they say they just can’t survive on this pittance of pay, so they’re taking to the streets.

On Thursday, several thousand protesters demonstrated at multiple locations throughout the St. Louis area. Their comments were widespread, but boiled down to one thing: These poverty wages have to go.

“On \$7.35 an hour you cannot afford childcare or healthcare. Don’t give up, Don’t give in, and we all will win!” chanted the protesting workers.

Others said, “We want change and we don’t mean pennies!”

A full-time worker making \$7.35 per hour

makes \$294.00 per week gross. After taxes, that income shrinks to about \$240 per week.

Across the table, these employers, thriving corporations like Jimmy John’s, Subway, Panera, Arby’s and others are bringing home billions.

“It makes no sense that in the world’s wealthiest country, billionaire businesses are bringing in all the money while workers are living at a poverty level making minimum wage,” said Local 655 President David Cook. “Many of these workers are struggling to support families and to afford basic needs like food, health care, rent and transportation, without relying on public assistance. It has to stop.”



Local 655 staff and members joined protesters in The Delmar Loop to help fight low wages in the fast food industry.

AN EXCLUSIVE
TWICE MONTHLY
REPORT FOR

UFCW 655
MEMBERS &
THEIR FAMILIES

www.ufcw655.com

Join us in pushing ‘Pink’ Pride

Support breast cancer research and show your union pride

In support of breast cancer research by helping raise money for the Susan G. Koman Foundation, Local 655 is:

- Inviting members to join us in fielding a Local 655 team for the Fun Walk in the upcoming June 15 Race for the Cure and/or
- Encouraging the purchase of a Union Proud ‘Pink’ Pride button for only \$1. Your entire \$1 contribution supports breast cancer research, awareness and more.

To join our Race for the Cure team, contact

Union Rep Karen Settlemoir-Berg at (636) 736-2745.

The typical entry fee is \$30, however for Local 655 members, the entry fee will only be \$10. The union is using the \$1,000 already raised from the sale of ‘Pink’ Pride buttons to subsidize the entry fee, which includes a T-shirt and participation in the race.

Deadline for entry as part of Local 655’s race team is May 23.

Join us. It’s a fun day for a great cause!



SHOWING THEIR UNION PROUD PINK PRIDE, Local 655 Members (left to right) Cassie Hunter, Shop ‘n Save; Bill Thomas, Dierbergs; Nancy Reilly, Dierbergs; Sherry Tate, Schnucks, and Bill Roberts, Schnucks.

United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 655

Food Employers Joint Pension Plan

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR OFFERED TO ALL U.F.C.W. 655 MEMBERS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 50 AND 62

Wednesday, June 5, 2013 or Thursday, June 6, 2013
9:30 am to 2:00 pm

U.F.C.W. Local 655 Meeting Hall
300 Weidman Road
Ballwin, MO 63011

Lunch Provided

Registration forms will be mailed to all members between the ages of 50 and 62 years old. If you wish to attend, please complete and return the registration form by May 31, 2013.

For session schedule and more details visit our Facebook Page

a VOICE for working America

Guest Speakers
Sharon Byrd, Social Security Administration Public Affairs Specialist will be covering your government benefits.
Richard Shinnars, Attorney and founding member of Hammon and Shinnars, P.C. will be covering wills, trusts, and estate planning.
Frank Gervasio and Sarah Burger, Advisors at Financial Planning Consultants, Inc. will be covering financial planning.

SAVE THE DATES

UFCW Local 655’s
Annual Co-ed Softball Tournament

August 5, 6, 7, 8, 19 & 20
Ellisville Ballpark
Rainout Dates: August 21 & 22

For more information contact Garry Torpea at 636.736.2773 or Merri Berry at 636.736.2757.

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