



**LOCAL 791** RECEIVED

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April 14, 2011

Dear Representative:

BY:.....

On behalf of the of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 791, I am writing to respectfully request that **you not support the following bills:** **H100:** An Act relative to clear and conspicuous price disclosures, **H987:** An Act relative to clear and conspicuous price disclosure, **H993:** An Act relative to pricing in food stores and food departments, **H994:** An Act Relative to the Pricing Of Grocery And Retail Items, **H995:** An Act Relative to the Pricing Of Grocery And Retail Items, and **H1869:** An Act relative to price marking of food and grocery items.

In one way or another, all of these bills drastically alter the current item pricing law that will have an adverse affect on consumers as well as threaten full time jobs and reduce the hours of part time workers that are employed in a majority of food retailers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Supporters of bills that would eliminate the current item pricing law have claimed that there would be negligible impact on workers because they would be moved to other departments in the store, etc. However, Shaw's Supermarket's currently has a number of full time workers out on lay-off as well as a number of workers that have been involuntarily moved from full-time to part-time. Unless there is protective language agreed upon by both the Union and a particular employer, eliminating item pricing will result in some form of job loss for many food retailers at a time when Massachusetts can't afford to lose any good jobs. Once these full-time jobs, with benefits, are eliminated they will never return. Current employees "might" be absorbed into the workforce, but that will slow/stop the amount of part-time employees hired, as well as, affect current part-time employees' ability to maintain health-care and pension benefits.

For the record, **UFCW Local 791 is opposed** to the provisions in many of these bills regarding the protection of jobs, wages and benefits for workers covered under a collective bargaining agreement. These so called "job protection, no loss of wage and benefit provisions" will be difficult, if not impossible, to manage, track, and adequately enforce. Furthermore, workers not covered under a union contract are not covered. If this provision had any teeth to it, the two retail operators that are union would never agree to include them in the legislation.

Proponents of particular bills that gut the current item pricing law are basically looking to save money by cutting labor costs and avoid the regulation altogether. There is simply no other savings to be gained. Most retail supermarkets today have approximately 80% of their work force as part-time and only 20% as full time. There is already a very limited amount of existing full time job opportunities, and there are few, if any, newly created full time jobs.

In conclusion, workers and consumers have everything to lose and nothing to gain with the passage of any of the aforementioned bills. The only group in this equation that benefits from passage of these bills is the retail food operators - and they will benefit at the expense of workers and consumers. Please consider the points outlined in this letter and **oppose any legislation that eliminates item pricing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

Sincerely,

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