

WakeUpWalMart.com Wake-Up Call 2.03.06 Edition

Wal-Mart's War on Women

Has Wal-Mart declared war on women?

- *2 million female employees suing Wal-Mart for gender discrimination
- *Pregnant Wal-Mart worker fired in Connecticut
- *Massachusetts women suing Wal-Mart for being denied legal medicine

Now it looks like Wal-Mart's right-wing war room is at it again. And, this time, they are attacking a woman's right to make her own medical decisions. Yesterday, three women in Massachusetts sued Wal-Mart and filed a complaint with the state because Wal-Mart refuses to sell legally-approved emergency contraceptive pills. In fact, Wal-Mart chooses not to sell this medication in every state except Illinois, where it is mandated by law.

More at: <http://www.wakeupwalmart.com/feature/waronwomen/>

Read Friday's Associated Press article on the issue: <http://wakeupwalmart.com/news/20060203-sdut.html>

Supporters Rally Behind Fired Wal-Mart Worker

WakeUpWalMart.com supporters, in conjunction with the Connecticut Working Families Party and the Community Alliance for Justice at Wal-mart, rallied on Wednesday, February 1 in Hartford, CT in support of a former Wal-Mart worker who was fired for being pregnant.

Click below to read her story: http://blog.wakeupwalmart.com/ufcw/2006/02/supporters_rall.html#comments

WakeUpWalMart.com Launches New Online Campaign: "First Wal-Mart, Now Bush"

On Thursday, February 2nd, WakeUpWalMart.com launched a new online grassroots effort calling on Wal-Mart and President George Bush to stop supporting health savings accounts, which are the first step by corporate America to destroy our employer-based health care system, where two-thirds of American workers currently get their health care coverage.

The "First Wal-Mart, Now President Bush" online initiative was launched in response to Wal-Mart's and now President Bush's newfound support for so-called privatized health care options, like "Health Savings Accounts." Beginning in January 2006, Wal-Mart introduced Health Savings Accounts (HSA's) as an additional health coverage option for its 1.3 million employees in the United States. Wal-Mart's HSAs will do nothing to increase the number of workers insured under the company's plan...

Click below to read the full press release and sign the petition to say no to the Wal-Mart/Bush-backed HSAs and yes to corporations paying their fair share for health care: <http://www.wakeupwalmart.com/press/20060202.html>



Another 1.5 million workers suing Wal-Mart?!

On January 26, lawyers for former and current Wal-Mart employees asked a panel of federal judges to consolidate class-action suits from across the country that accuse the company of cheating workers out of regular and overtime payments.

Over the past few years, worker claims against Wal-Mart have been piling up. The company is now facing more than 50 lawsuits in state and federal courts, alleging that Wal-Mart failed to pay employees for all time worked. The plaintiffs' attorney, Robert Bonsignore, estimates he represents more than 1.5 million current and former Wal-Mart employees in 10 lawsuits filed in states from Hawaii to Maine. Workers say that Wal-Mart managers cheated them out of overtime hours or docked time cards for breaks not taken.

Click below to read the full article from the Orlando Sentinel:

<http://wakeupwalmart.com/news/20060127-os.html>

Community Groups Defeat Wal-Mart...from Oregon to California to New York City

This week several community groups won long-term local fights to keep Wal-Mart out of their communities. In Bend, Oregon, after one year of hard grassroots work, Our Communities First won a first round victory against Wal-Mart. A land use officer denied Wal-Mart's application after the Oregon community organized local opposition (<http://www.wakeupwalmart.com/news/20060202-sj.html>).

In Hercules, California, Wal-Mart withdrew its building application after a community group, Friends of Hercules, fought to keep the world's largest retailer out of the city (<http://www.wakeupwalmart.com/news/20060203-cct.html>).

Across the country in New York City, a community benefits agreement between the city and development officials, banned the presence of Wal-Mart in a new Bronx mall. Wal-Mart has continually tried to build in New York City, and residents continue to build grassroots support against the big box giant.

In other local fights, over 140 people jammed the room at a Fontana City Council and Planning Commission in California to speak out against Wal-Mart, and 400 residents gathered in Fairhope, Alabama this week to stand up against a proposed Supercenter. These are just some examples of the growing grassroots campaign to change Wal-Mart.

"You Call THESE Low Prices?"

A little humor from the Philadelphia Inquirer:



State of the Union: Bought and Paid For...
More humor, from the Center for American Progress:

