



January 9, 2021

Mr. Rodney McMullen
Kroger CEO
1014 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Dear Rodney,

Across the country thousands of our members – Kroger workers – contract the coronavirus each week. Experts say that [one person's cough can spread the virus](#) over several aisles in a grocery store making it impossible for our members not to come into contact with the coronavirus. As long as our members continue to risk their health and their lives, they deserve hazard pay. It should have never been taken away, and now, more than ever it must be restored.

In every department, within every store the hard-working men and women we represent have risen to the challenge of keeping their communities fed during a global pandemic. The UFCW Region 4 unions are aware of your proposal to increase the hourly rate of Pharmacy Technicians by one dollar (\$1.00) per hour temporarily. While we agree with the need to increase the Pharmacy Technician wages during this global pandemic, we maintain our position that every single store employee is at great risk of exposure to the virus and also deserves a temporary wage increase.

With this reality in mind, we propose that all of our hard-working members – Kroger workers – that continue to care for their customers and communities receive the same wage increase. While the vaccine offers us hope, the reality is that the number of [positive cases in America continues to rise](#) and [a new more contagious form of the virus is being discovered in states](#) across the country. The virus makes working in a grocery store more dangerous every day and top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci warns, ["We believe things will get worse as we get into January"](#).

From the very beginning of this global pandemic grocery store workers have taken care of all of us. It's time to recognize and reward their hard work and sacrifices by providing them all with an hourly wage increase.

Sincerely,

President
UFCW 227

President
UFCW 75

President
UFCW 700

President
UFCW 876

President
UFCW 1059

President
UFCW 951

Cc: John McPherson
Steven Yancey
Peggy Prescott
Milton Jones