

PROTECTING UNION JOBS AND FOOD ACCESS IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

WHEREAS, Grocery stores employ more than 1.3 million workers across the United States;

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, grocery store workers risked their health and safety to ensure that our nation's food supply was safe, grocery store shelves remained stocked, and pharmacies continued to distribute medication;

WHEREAS, Access to healthy food is a significant problem for millions of Americans and overwhelmingly impacts low-income urban communities, rural communities, and communities of color;

WHEREAS, Black (19.8 percent) and Latinx (16.2 percent) households are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, with food insecurity rates in 2021 triple and double the rate of White households (7.0 percent), respectively¹;

WHEREAS, In 2021, Latinos were 2.5 times more likely to experience food insecurity than white individuals. 1 in 6 Hispanic individuals experienced food insecurity.

WHEREAS, The food insecurity rate is highest in the South (11.4 percent), followed by the Midwest (9.9 percent), West (9.7 percent), and Northeast (8.8 percent)²;

WHEREAS, During the pandemic, grocery stores saw record profits;

WHEREAS, In October 2022, Kroger and Albertsons, two of the largest supermarket chains in the US, announced their intent to merge;

WHEREAS, LCLAA believes that this merger would likely result in layoffs and higher prices for consumers and will further worsen the food desert crisis;

WHEREAS, LCLAA is committed to the protection and empowerment of Latinx workers and workers of color;

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That LCLAA calls on Kroger and Albertsons to ensure that the proposed merger is beneficial to workers, the community, and consumers by ensuring the continued long-term employment, benefits, and bargaining rights for workers, the viability of all resulting entities, and no increase in the prevalence of food deserts in any community.

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=104655>

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