

Court Rejects Wal-Mart and Target's Legal Argument

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Chicago, IL --Today the U.S. District Court in a lawsuit involving a Maryland health law rejected the legal argument made by Wal-Mart, Target and other opponents against the proposed Chicago retail living wage ordinance. The court ruled that the Maryland law, which effectively applied only to Wal-Mart, was not unconstitutionally discriminatory.

"The Maryland court completely rejected the legal argument that Wal-Mart and Target are making in Chicago: that it is unconstitutional for lawmakers to focus on very large employers when enacting new protections for the working poor," said Paul Sonn, deputy director of the Poverty Program at the Brennan Center for Justice, which has advised the Chicago City Council on the proposed living wage ordinance. Unlike the Maryland law which affected only Wal-Mart, Chicago's proposed living wage ordinance would apply to the whole large retail industry in the city.

