



**NEW YORK CITY
CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**

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**NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO RESOLUTION
Retail Worker Safety Act Resolution
Adopted August 9, 2024**

WHEREAS, workers in retail stores, pharmacies and supermarkets in New York are vulnerable to verbal and psychological harassment, to threats of violence, and violent crimes and assault; and

WHEREAS, unsafe retail workplaces endanger workers and shoppers, presenting a serious threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of New York retail workers who participated in a recent survey said they are worried about active shooters coming to their workplace, and that most employers are not doing anything in the wake of violent incidents to make workplaces safer; and

WHEREAS, fatal mass shootings in New York such as 2021 at a Long Island Stop & Shop store, and 2022 at a Tops supermarket in Buffalo remind us of the serious dangers retail workers face; and

WHEREAS, current retail workplace safety ideas focus on harsher penalties, and reactive surveillance rather than preventative measures and real-time solutions; and

WHEREAS, active shooter drills and training in violence prevention, de-escalation tactics, and escape procedures, along with the installation of panic buttons, can save the lives of workers and customers; and

WHEREAS, it is only a matter of time before there is another tragic mass shooter event at a retail store, pharmacy, or supermarket in New York; and



WHEREAS, New York’s retail workers and the public deserve the protection of as many preventative public safety measures as are available; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO urgently calls upon New York Governor Kathy Hochul to sign the Retail Worker Safety Act (RWSA) into law so that real-time preventative measures including active shooter drills and training in violence prevention, de-escalation tactics, and escape procedures, and the installation of panic buttons, are introduced into New York’s retail stores, pharmacies, and supermarkets to protect public safety.

Submitted by: RWDSU/UFCW

