**Are our tax dollars funding sweatshops?**

**The Problem: Worker Abuses**

Sweatfree Communities’ research shows that our tax dollars are paying for human rights abuses when our cities and states buy uniforms and other products from exploitative corporations. This is the human reality of the global apparel industry--young women work long hours under harsh conditions for unfair wages. When this happens workers’ health, safety, and human rights are compromised. The Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh last spring was only the latest in a long history of preventable worker injuries and deaths in sweatshops. Sweatshops are the norm in an industry that thrives on cutting costs without considering the consequences.

**The Solution: Sweatshop-Free Communities**

Sweatfree Communities is a U.S. network of grassroots campaigns that recognize the potential in government purchasing for creating positive alternatives to global sweatshops.

* The federal, state, and local government buys more than $10 billion of apparel annually

* Sweatfree communities agree to spend that $10 billion ethically by requiring vendors to disclose the names and physical addresses of production facilities and to share this information with the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium

* The Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium will monitor working conditions and create a significant demand for products made in decent working conditions by workers who earn living wages.

* Let’s have Chicago join over 170 school districts, counties, states, and cities, like Los Angeles and St. Louis, that have already made the Sweatfree Community commitment

**We believe that our tax dollars here in the City of Chicago should be spent on products made in humane working conditions by workers who are paid decent wages. Let’s make Chicago a Sweatfree Community!**

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| **Get involved:**   * **Contact your Alderman** to ask him/her to support the Sweatfree Communities Ordinance! * **Learn more at:** [**www.sweatfree.org**](http://www.sweatfree.org) * **Join the sweatfree committee** that is working toward passage: contact njones@chicagofairtrade.org * **Align your own apparel purchasing** by finding fair trade and sweatfree apparel at **www.chicagofairtrade.org** | http://cpcabrisbane.org/Kasama/1997/V11n2/Images/ISISGR44.GIF |