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Clarifying That No Unaffiliated or Suspended Organization May Be Allowed Representation or Recognition in the AFL-CIO

Submitted by the Executive Council

Article III, Section 6 of the Constitution provides that no organization whose affiliation with the AFL-CIO “has been suspended or whose charter has been revoked,” and no subordinate body of such an organization “shall, while unaffiliated, be allowed representation or recognition in the AFL-CIO” or in any subordinate body or affiliate of the AFL-CIO.

This provision has always been interpreted and applied to cover not just organizations that have been suspended or whose charters the AFL-CIO has revoked, but also organizations that have never been affiliated with the AFL-CIO or that have disaffiliated voluntarily from the AFL-CIO. The purposes of the rule—to involve in AFL-CIO programs and accord AFL-CIO protections to organizations that join and support the Federation, rather than independent unions—are served in the same manner regardless of whether an unaffiliated organization has ever been affiliated and regardless of how a prior affiliation ended. The proposed amendment

would make that more comprehensive, and historically applied, coverage explicit.

Therefore, the Executive Council proposes the following amendments to Article III, Section 6:

Article III AFFILIATES

Sec. 6. No organization that is unaffiliated with, or is suspended from, ~~whose affiliation with this Federation has been suspended or whose charter has been revoked,~~ and no affiliate or subordinate body of such an organization, shall, while unaffiliated or suspended, be allowed representation or recognition in the AFL-CIO, in any subordinate body of the AFL-CIO, or in any national or international union or organizing committee affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Any affiliate violating this section shall be subject to suspension from the AFL-CIO.

Referred to the Constitutional Committee