

Resolutions adopted by MLKCLC in 2007

Endorsing 3/19/07 Anti-war march & rally - 2/28/07
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Resolution to seek justice & stop the killings in the Philippines & to free Philippine Representative Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran - 3/21/07
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Supporting GMA Watch - 11/7/07

Resolution endorsing the 3/19/07 anti-war march & rally - Adopted 2/28/07

WHEREAS organized labor in the United States and throughout the world has expressed opposition to the war in Iraq; and
WHEREAS the war has cost our nation over \$367 billion, including over \$10 billion from the State of Washington and almost \$1 billion from the City of Seattle; and
WHEREAS a resolution will be introduced in the Seattle City Council declaring opposition to continued military occupation of Iraq, honoring the sacrifices of our men and women in military service, and calling for the resources being spent on the war to be applied to the growing needs of our communities, our veterans and an Iraqi-led reconstruction of their devastated homeland; and
WHEREAS on March 19th there will be a march and rally calling for an end to the war in Iraq and passage of the City Council resolution, initially sponsored by American Friends Service Committee, Church Council of Greater Seattle, Comite pro Amnestia, Fellowship of Reconciliation, LELO, MLK Celebration Committee, Out Front Labor Coalition/Pride at Work, Sound Nonviolent Opponents of War and Washington State Jobs with Justice; therefore be it
RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council endorse the March 19th action and urge its affiliates to mobilize and participate in the march and rally; and be it further
RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to affiliates of the Council and to the Washington State Labor Council.

Resolution opposing the adoption of CAFTA in Costa Rica - Adopted 3/7/07

WHEREAS ratification of the Central American Free Trade Agreement is currently pending before the Congress of Costa Rica, whose citizens, led by the labor movement, have engaged in a determined fight to stop its approval; and

WHEREAS the impact of CAFTA on the Dominican Republic and other Central American countries that have already approved the treaty has been devastating for small farmers and low-paid workers in the textile and other labor intensive industries; and

WHEREAS corporate backers of CAFTA seek to use it as a vehicle to privatize the large, highly unionized public sector in Costa Rica that includes state ownership of insurance, telecommunications, electricity distribution, water, sewage, and railroad transportation. First to go would be subsidized phone and electrical service for the poor. In addition, CAFTA would likely lead to the dismantling of universal health care in Costa Rica and prohibit the government from purchasing low cost generic drugs; and

WHEREAS the U.S. government and businesses have spent millions of dollars in Costa Rica to elect pro-CAFTA politicians while threatening to punish the entire country if its Congress fails to adopt free trade legislation, and soon; and

WHEREAS the government of Costa Rica has responded to militant protests and general strikes organized by CAFTA opponents with increased police and political repression, including frame-ups of labor leaders like Orlando Barrantes, General Secretary of the banana workers union. Barrantes was recently sentenced to two years in jail and three years probation for his leadership role in the fight for workers rights, land for landless farmers, quality healthcare for the poor, and the defeat of CAFTA; and WHEREAS widespread popular opposition, expressed in a successful General Strike in October 2006, has led to an impasse over approval of CAFTA and implementing legislation by the Costa Rican Congress; and

WHEREAS the U.S. labor movement has been outspoken in its opposition to one free trade agreement after another that puts the interest of multinational corporate profiteers over the interests of workers, the environment and the public welfare, including NAFTA, FTAA, CAFTA and others; and

WHEREAS this summer, the U.S. Congress will be reviewing free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia and Panama which share the same fundamental pro-corporate, antilabor, anti-environmental provisions that make them harmful to the lives of workers, indigenous peoples, small farmers, and the poor in those countries; therefore be it RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council applauds the Costa Rican labor movement for its militant leadership in building a strong, united movement against CAFTA; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council calls on the government of Costa Rica to abandon all attempts to ratify CAFTA and to drop charges against anti-CAFTA activist Orlando Barrantes and others punished for exercising their rights to freedom of speech and association; and be it finally

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Washington State Labor Council and the AFL-CIO, urging their adoption of the resolution and their continued opposition to neo-liberal free trade agreements, including calling for the repeal of NAFTA and CAFTA by the U.S. Congress.

Resolution supporting Teamsters' Port Trucker Organizing Drive - Adopted 3/7/07

WHEREAS harbor truck drivers serving the Port of Seattle are at the bottom of the food chain and highly exploited; and

WHEREAS harbor truck drivers are paid by the load, spend up to half their time idling while waiting to pick up and drop off their loads but are not compensated for that time; and

WHEREAS harbor truck drivers cannot afford lower emission trucks and suffer from the health impacts of driving dirty diesel trucks; and

WHEREAS harbor truck drivers do not have the right to organize a union because a majority of them are misclassified as independent contractors; therefore be it RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council pledges to support the Teamsters new national campaign to organize harbor truck drivers at the Port of Seattle. The Council pledges to support the Teamsters campaign to get the Port impose standards on the port trucking sector that will enable the drivers to organize, to come out of the shadows, and to raise their standard of living by granting access to the Port only to those motor carriers that meet new standards, including requiring all motor carriers that serve the Port to hire their drivers as employees and to guarantee labor peace. By setting comprehensive standards that will fix the broken port trucking industry, this campaign will also help the community to clean the air and reduce impacts on the community.

Resolution to seek justice & stop the killings in the Philippines & to free Philippine Representative Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran - Adopted 3/21/07

WHEREAS the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council is on record condemning the lawless conduct of the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo regime in the Philippines; and WHEREAS the extrajudicial executions of labor, youth and students, women, politicians, church-based people and human rights activists continue unabated; and

WHEREAS the Arroyo regime has attempted to silence her political opponents by declaring a state of emergency and illegally arresting national legislators, including Representative Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran; and

WHEREAS in 1981 in Seattle ILWU Local 37 leaders Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo were killed by hired gunmen of the former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos; primarily for recognizing Crispin Beltran of the Kilusang Mayo Uno as the main organization representing labor in the Philippines, fighting for the basic rights of Filipino workers to have collective bargaining rights for better working conditions and compensation and addressing the root causes of oppression; and

WHEREAS there have been more than 840 documented cases of extrajudicial killings, many of whom were committed by Death Squads linked to the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS cuts to education and healthcare in the U.S. are used to fund the Philippine military, who are committing human rights violations. Since 2001, the U.S. has funded the Philippine military with over \$230 million and has sent over 5,000 U.S. troops to joint military exercises to combat what President Bush has declared as the "second front on the War on Terror." While, in reality, the American dollars are used to murder, abduct,

torture, illegally arrest and intimidate unionists, peasants, church-based people, workers, journalists, women, indigenous people, youth and students and other peace-loving political and social activists; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council joins the campaign of “Stop the Killings in the Philippines” and strongly urges our affiliates to contact their state and federal legislative representatives to join the campaign and support Filipino and American labor and human rights activists and groups seeking justice for the human rights abuse victims and their families; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council supports the campaign to free Crispin Beltran, demand that the U.S. government withdraws its support of the Arroyo regime and remove U.S. troops from the Philippines; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council requests the Washington State Labor Council and the AFL-CIO to adopt a similar resolution and inform and urge their affiliated organizations to contact their federal and state legislative representatives and demand that the U.S. Human Rights Commission call for a halt to the intimidation and killings in the Philippines; and be it finally

RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States; the Honorable Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., Chairperson, US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer, Presiding Officer, Hearing on Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines; THE CARTER CENTER: Peace with Justice and Human Rights Program; the Honorable Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines; the Honorable Chairperson Purificacion Quizumbing, Philippine Commission on Human Rights; the Honorable Senator Manny Villar, Philippine Senate President; the Honorable Representative Jose de Venecia, Philippine Speaker of the House; the Honorable Secretary Arturo Brion, Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, Professor Phillip Alston, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in the Philippines, and US Congressman Tom Lantos, Co-Chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as appropriate.

Resolution endorsing Seattle's Step it Up - Day of Climate Action - Adopted 4/4/07

WHEREAS the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council supports work to rebuild our energy infrastructure and create millions of family-wage jobs through investments in clean energy; and

WHEREAS scientists worldwide have concluded that the United States must cut its carbon emissions 80% by the year 2050 to stem the effects of global warming; and

WHEREAS building Washington's clean energy economy will bring a number of jobs in clean energy industries to 25,000 by 2025 – triple the current total; and

WHEREAS the Step It Up event will build lasting partnerships between environmental organizations, labor unions, businesses and the community that will allow us to continue working toward long-term solutions to encourage good jobs and promote clean energy solutions; and

WHEREAS this event will send a loud and clear message to policy-makers that we must make real policy changes immediately to cut global warming emissions 80% by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS this event will empower citizens to take personal action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, thereby building a strong and active base for broader policy solutions; and

WHEREAS the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council can promote labor's mission to the community and in the media at this large event; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Council endorses Seattle's Step It Up – Day of Climate Action and will participate in the event on April 14, 2007.

Resolution supporting King County Housing Authority/Lora Lake Apartments - Adopted 5/16/07

WHEREAS King County Housing Authority helps all residents of King County by offering subsidized housing to thousands of individuals and families who are living at or below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS there is an increasing shortage of affordable housing in King County; and

WHEREAS the Port of Seattle is the owner of the property known as Lora Lake Apartments and has been leasing this property to King County Housing Authority since 1998, with the understanding that some of the units would need to be removed due to FAA requirements on the third runway; and

WHEREAS the city of Burien has re-zoned the land that Lora Lake Apartments occupies as "industrial/commercial," in an attempt to attract a "big box retailer," and has stated that all buildings on the Lora Lake site need to be torn down to attract any developer; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council shall go on record supporting the King County Housing Authority in their efforts to retain the units of moderate income work force housing at Lora Lake Apartments that are not affected by FAA requirements, until such time as the city of Burien or the Port of Seattle secure a new tenant or owner for the land, shall request that affiliates adopt similar resolutions, and shall forward a copy of this resolution to the city of Burien and the Port of Seattle Commission.

Resolution regarding hotel development - Adopted 5/16/07

WHEREAS in Seattle City Council Ordinance #121786 the intention of Alaska Building, LLC was stated to redevelop the historic Alaska Building into desperately needed residential units in the Pioneer Square area; and

WHEREAS Alaska Building, LLC has now declared their intention to build a 250 room hotel without any residential units; and

WHEREAS the hotel developer is asking to change the Seattle Land Use Code to the benefit of one single private company, hereby possibly opening the door for other developers to do the same in the future; and

WHEREAS the Seattle community has not had enough time to access information and review the proposed hotel project; and

WHEREAS the impact of the project on the already-high demand for public health, housing, public transit, child care and other social services in the city and surrounding communities has not yet been properly assessed; and

WHEREAS the track record of the proponent and partners in the project on relations with neighborhood and community groups, the arts community, labor unions, and other civic organizations should be carefully considered; and

WHEREAS the impact of the project on the already existing Seattle hotel industry has not yet been assessed; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council calls for the Seattle City Council to only approve the changes to the Seattle Land Use Code brought forward in the "Alaska Building Text Amendment" after thorough assessment of the impacts this development will have on our Seattle community, giving careful consideration to the concerns raised by community members.

Resolution calling for impeachment proceedings - Adopted 5/16/07

WHEREAS there is a high probability that the Bush Administration has committed impeachable offenses, including the following: justifying war with false and misleading statements in an effort to deceive the people of the United States and the U.S.

Congress; undermining the rightful authority of Congress to declare war; directing or authorizing the National Security Agency and various other agencies within the intelligence community to conduct electronic surveillance outside of the statutes

Congress has prescribed as the exclusive means for such surveillance; allowing and condoning the use of torture; and issuing over 1200 signing statements declaring the President's right to interpret laws passed by Congress as he sees fit; and

WHEREAS in all of this, the President and Vice-President have acted in violation of their oaths of office and the U. S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS Congress has a solemn duty to provide oversight of the executive branch on behalf of the American people, and failure to investigate impeachable offenses will establish a precedent of no accountability for similar actions by any future administrations; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Constitution provides for a means for the American people through their Congressional or State representatives to call for investigations of improper or illegal actions committed by the executive branch; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council calls on Congressional Representatives Jim McDermott, Jay Inslee, Adam Smith, Dave Reichert, Rick Larsen and Norm Dicks to cause to be instituted in the House of Representatives proceedings for an impeachment investigation into the actions of President Bush and Vice President Cheney, and/or to support House Resolution 333, which calls for impeachment proceedings against Vice President Cheney.

Resolution supporting United Way Workplace Campaigns - Adopted 6/6/07

WHEREAS United Ways throughout the nation have had close working relationships with organized labor for over 70 years; and

WHEREAS it is to the mutual benefits of United Way of King County and the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council to nurture such a close relationship to serve the needs of this community; and

WHEREAS United Way of King County recognizes the many contributions of members of organized labor in strengthening this community; and

WHEREAS United Way of King County has the need for assistance from the affiliates of the MLKCLC to promote the annual United Way campaign and to use union services whenever possible; and

WHEREAS the MLKCLC and United Way of King County have a vested interest in resolving major issues confronting this community such as ending homelessness and readying children for school; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC strongly support the annual United Way campaign by encouraging all union members to participate in United Way workplace campaigns.

Resolution supporting the AFL-CIO resolution on diversity - Adopted 6/20/07

The Council voted to adopt the AFL-CIO resolution on diversity, along with the following actions.

1. Amend the MLKCLC constitution and bylaws to include seats on the board for all constituency groups affiliated with the Council
2. Develop an affirmative action plan for diversity to include diversity in the Council's hiring practices
3. Support and promote constituency groups in the leadership of the council
4. Provide leadership education for people of color, LGBT, women and delegates to prepare them to take leadership roles in the Council and their local unions
5. Encourage the affiliates of the Council to adopt the AFL-CIO resolution on diversity
6. Encourage local affiliates to develop an affirmative action plan that would assess the local's goals and achievements in diversity and full participation of their rank and file members
7. Encourage local unions to develop diversity committees to begin the process of self-reflection on internal diversity and develop a plan for full participation and inclusion of their diverse membership
8. Encourage affiliates to develop leadership training for people of color, LGBT and women to prepare them for leadership in their locals.
9. Support the MLKCLC Diversity Committee in a program to target affiliates to begin this process
10. The president of the Council shall appoint committee of executive board members to meet with the Diversity Committee to review the aforementioned points and form a plan for implementation.

Resolution supporting the Washington Worker Freedom Act - Adopted 7/18/07

WHEREAS in 1935 the U.S. Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act with the stated intent to make it the official policy of the U.S. government to support the rights of workers to join labor unions and promote collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS the effect of the National Labor Relations Act allowed union density to continue to grow in America until the decade of the 1950's when labor unions represented over thirty five percent of all workers; and

WHEREAS on June 23, 1947, and over the veto of President Harry S. Truman, Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act (also known as the Labor-Management Relations

Act). Truman denounced it as a “slave-labor bill.” The act declared the closed shop illegal and permitted the union shop only after a majority vote of the employees thereby weakening union’s ability to bargain; and

WHEREAS since that time the U.S. Government’s practices and policies have continued to restrict and diminish support for the right of workers to join unions resulting in a gradual reduction in union density until presently only twelve percent of workers are represented; and

WHEREAS employers require employees seeking union representation to attend “captive audience” meetings where workers are subjected to threats, firings and implications of plant closures by employers and their union avoidance consultants; and

WHEREAS the Federal government has failed to help workers seeking union representation, the labor movement must seek remedy at the state government level; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the M. L. King County Labor Council endorses the passage of a law by Washington State which would make it unlawful for employers to require employees to attend mandatory meetings when the primary topic of the meeting is religion, politics or labor unions; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution will be referred to the WSLC for adoption at its 2007 convention.

Resolution to make increased funding for the King County Reemployment Support Center Program a WSLC legislative priority in 2008 - Adopted 7/18/07

WHEREAS the M. L. King County Labor Council/Worker Center’s *King County Reemployment Support Center* program has served with distinction thousands of King County’s unemployed and dislocated workers since 1987; and

WHEREAS the employees of the *King County Reemployment Support Center* program have been represented by OPEIU Local 8 since it’s inception; and

WHEREAS the *King County Reemployment Support Center* program has been recognized as a “Best Practice” Rapid Response Team partner in 2000 by the U. S. Department of Labor, California AFL-CIO and California State Job Training Partnership Division; in 2001/2002 by the Washington State Workforce Development Providers; and in 2006 by the Washington State Employment Security Department; and

WHEREAS the *King County Reemployment Support Center* program has never had an increase in funding from the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development since its establishment by the Washington State Legislature in 1987; and

WHEREAS the *King County Reemployment Support Center* program cannot continue to provide the current level of services to unemployed and dislocated workers without an increase in state funding support; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC ask the Washington State Labor Council to make increased funding for the *King County Reemployment Support Center* program from the State of Washington a top priority of it’s Legislative Agenda for the 2008 session of the Washington State Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC ask the Washington State Labor Council to aggressively lobby the Washington State Legislature to include increased funding for the *King County Reemployment Support Center* program in the Supplemental Budget.

Resolution supporting insurance coverage for HPV vaccinations - Adopted 7/18/07

WHEREAS the Human Papilloma virus (HPV) is a commonly acquired virus in men and women, there are four HPV types that cause 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts, these four HPV types (6, 11, 16, 18) are the types in a vaccine now available, and this virus, which men can transmit to women through as little as skin to skin contact of the genitals, is preventable via a vaccine; and

WHEREAS HPV is contracted by nearly everyone, 80% of us are able to cleanse this virus from our system, the other 20% of the women who have contracted this virus have a higher probability of having cervical cancer which could lead to death if not detected early; and

WHEREAS currently, there is a vaccine available for girls and young women who are not yet sexually active (ages 9-26), the name of this vaccine is Gardasil and soon a vaccine will be approved by the Federal Drug Administration for boys and young men; and

WHEREAS this vaccine is expensive, the dose requires three injections within a six month period, right now the costs for these injections are \$125 each plus office visits, when both boys and girls need these cancer preventing vaccines the average family, *with 2.5 children*, will likely be paying \$937 plus office visits for this preventative measure; and

WHEREAS according to initial research by the national office of CLUW, these costs are in all likelihood covered by the HMOs as preventative care, however, there are traditional medical insurance plans that do not cover this vaccine, the office visits to obtain it or the lab tests for HPV, and other research is being done to determine the extent of this non-coverage; and

WHEREAS this action is endorsed by the Puget Sound Chapter of CLUW, SPEEA, Northwest L&PA, and Northwest Health & Wellness Committees; be it therefore RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council supports HPV vaccinations as a way to protect the upcoming generations of union members; and be it further RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council encourages its affiliates to work with employers on providing insurance coverage for HPV vaccines, lab work and office visits associated with such for all future medical coverage; and be it finally RESOLVED that the M.L. King County Labor Council will forward this resolution to the WSLC and the National AFL-CIO for adoption.

Resolution supporting responsible urban development and industrial preservation - Adopted 8/1/07

WHEREAS blue collar industrial employment is a key ingredient in maintaining family wage, middle class jobs in the Puget Sound Region; and

WHEREAS industrial lands loss has been escalating in Seattle and other Puget Sound communities; and

WHEREAS industrial to commercial rezoning in Ballard, South Lake Union, Interbay and Duwamish Industrial Area in Seattle have seriously compromised those industrial sectors; and

WHEREAS the American Life/EB-5 foreign investment program intends to turn the last large industrial tract in Seattle's SODO district in to upscale commercial real estate; and

WHEREAS such losses threaten the Port of Seattle's viability as a major West Coast deep water port; and

WHEREAS American Life's EB-5 program now intends to establish similar industrial conversions in Pierce, Snohomish and Whatcom County; therefore be it

RESOLVED that, in conjunction with the Pierce County, Snohomish County, Whatcom/Skagit County, the M. L. King County Central Labor Councils establish, in coordination with the Washington State Labor Council and other community partners, the Sound Coalition for Industrial Preservation (SCIP); and be it further RESOLVED that SCIP engage in aggressive political action to stop the loss of urban industrial lands; and be it finally

RESOLVED that SCIP call on political leaders to develop factors for urban development that balance the housing needs for all citizens and the necessity to preserve and provide family wage industrial jobs in established urban centers.

Resolution supporting Teamsters Local 252 and NFFC workers - Adopted 9/5/07

WHEREAS Teamsters Local 174 supports Teamster Local 252 in their struggle to seek a fair and equitable contract with the National Frozen Food Corporation; and

WHEREAS Teamsters Local 174 supports an amicable agreement in the contract negotiations; and

WHEREAS Teamsters Local 174 does not support the unfair and unilateral tactics of National Frozen Foods Corporation; and

WHEREAS National Frozen Foods Corporation has forced its employees to work without a contract for over a month and is slashing pension benefits in a way that particularly impacts seasonal and Latino employees; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council supports Teamsters Local 252 in their struggle to maintain a fair and reasonable contract, and is urging all affiliated members to participate in the leafleting event at Occidental Park on September 10, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Resolution supporting Mayor Nickels' recommendations on industrial land use & jobs - Adopted 9/5/07

WHEREAS the city of Seattle's industrial lands are the basis for many businesses small and large; and

WHEREAS these businesses not only provide hundreds of good family-wage jobs but actually about one-quarter of the jobs in the city of Seattle; and

WHEREAS the city of Seattle's planning commission released a report in July 2007 detailing the importance of these jobs and businesses to our community; and

WHEREAS the Mayor of Seattle has released his recommendations on the future use of these lands based on the planning commission's recommendations which will ensure the preservation of industrial lands; and

WHEREAS Teamsters Local 174 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters fully supports the Mayor's recommendations on the future use of these lands; be it therefore RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council will support the recommendations on industrial land use and jobs from the Mayor of Seattle; and be it further.

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council will work to encourage its affiliates to support the Mayor's recommendations.

Resolution supporting United Way public sector workplace campaigns - Adopted 10/3/07

WHEREAS members of public sector unions throughout the nation have a long history of supporting their communities through workplace campaigns; and

WHEREAS it is to the mutual benefit of local public sector unions and the MLKCLC to continue encouraging these generous members continued giving; and

WHEREAS the MLKCLC and local public sector unions have a vested interest in resolving community issues such as homelessness and readying children for school; and

WHEREAS public sector workplace giving allows local communities to begin resolving these issues; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC strongly supports public sector union members' participation in workplace giving campaigns.

Resolution opposing media ownership consolidation - Adopted 10/17/07

WHEREAS the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is charged to regulate the public airwaves and communications systems to serve in the public interest, convenience, and necessity; and

WHEREAS freedom and democracy require diverse and local voices, an informed public, and equal and affordable access to the press, media, and Internet communications; and

WHEREAS our participatory democracy and electoral processes are being threatened and diminished by a handful of giant media corporations who want to swallow up even more local TV Channels, radio stations and newspapers in a single market; and

WHEREAS our unions and the general public suffer from under reporting of labor issues in the news media and misinformation influenced by corporate America; and

WHEREAS the frontline workers most negatively affected include journalists, musicians, writers, artists, actors and telecommunication workers; and

WHEREAS we know that 3 million comments halted unfair FCC rulemaking procedures regarding media ownership consolidation and localism in 2004; and

WHEREAS the final opportunity to offer public comment to the FCC will be at a public hearing slated for November 2007 in Seattle, WA, and/or directly to the FCC by a similar deadline; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC will join the American Federation of Musicians and the Communications Workers of America in opposing the Federal Communication Commission's loosening of the media ownership consolidation rules; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC will 1) communicate to the FCC their opposition to the proposed rule making on media ownership consolidation, 2) encourage MLKCLC affiliates and their members to communicate their opposition to the proposed rule making on media ownership consolidation, 3) forward copies to the Washington Congressional Delegation, 4) forward copies to the WSLC and, 5) testify at the last FCC sponsored public hearing slated for Seattle, WA in November 2, 2007.

Resolution opposing the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act - Adopted 10/17/07

WHEREAS the current Miller-Pelosi proposal for reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) will hurt our union brothers and sisters by eroding collective bargaining rights for teacher compensation, evaluation, transfer and reassignment; and

WHEREAS the one-size-fits-all approach of NCLB is hurting our students, teachers and public schools, and this proposal will make a bad law worse; and

WHEREAS Congress should not seek to control and punish local school districts, but should offer assistance and support to those schools and students that need help; and

WHEREAS this reauthorization proposal will make it harder to attract and retain quality teachers in our classrooms; and

WHEREAS the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association and the Washington Education Association support rewriting NCLB to include successful programs such as smaller class sizes, school modernization, hiring additional school counselors, providing quality teacher and paraprofessional training, and additional health and nutrition staffing; and increasing parental involvement as junior academic cohorts in this holistic plan in our public schools; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Martin Luther King, Jr. County Labor Council ask our members of Congress to oppose this NCLB reauthorization proposal and convey our opposition to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Committee on Education Chairman, George Miller.

Resolution supporting GMA Watch - Adopted 11/7/07

WHEREAS the MLKCLC has passed two previous resolutions condemning extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS the killings and the disappearances continue unabated; and

WHEREAS the number of murdered and disappeared in the Philippines under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) now exceeds 1000 people; and

WHEREAS the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Killings Philip Alston found significant evidence that the Philippine Military is involved in these killings and to date, no one has been held legally responsible; and

WHEREAS human and labor rights organizations are attempting to build a broad based network of labor, religious, human rights and national democratic forces to hold the Gloria Macapagal Arroyo regime and her U.S. sponsors accountable for the declining human rights and economic situation in the Philippines; be it therefore

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC endorses and agrees to support GMA Watch as it informs and agitates for human and labor rights in the Philippines; and be it further

RESOLVED that the MLKCLC urge its affiliates and the WSLC and the AFL-CIO to pass similar resolutions and to endorse and support GMA Watch.