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Resolution in Support of ACORN

Whereas, for nearly 40 years ACORN has organized low- and moderate-income people to make their lives and communities healthier and stronger; and

Whereas ACORN has a base of community leaders and members – many of them rank and file members - across San Francisco, the Bay Area and across the state of California who fight for improvements to their respective communities; and

Whereas, ACORN has worked hand in hand with labor on many campaigns that affect workers rights and benefits such as the fight to increase the minimum wage, a landmark community benefits agreement, and the fight for comprehensive healthcare reform in San Francisco; and

Whereas, ACORN has worked in communities where many of our rank and file members live to better our memberships quality of life through, renters rights, affordable housing and homeownership, fighting predatory lending and unfair targeting of working families, protecting vital services, organizing around quality of life, health and safety issues, preserving public education, and holding decision makers accountable to the needs of working families; and

Whereas, ACORN is being unjustly targeted and under attack by extreme conservative forces whose sole purpose is to destroy ACORN in the same manner that they have sought to destroy the labor movement and undermine the ability to win quality affordable health care, worker rights, living wage jobs, corporate accountability, and the highest quality services and public education in America,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council requests that each local union send a letter in support of ACORN (a sample copy is attached); and

Be it Further resolved that this resolution be sent to the five Bay Area Labor Councils asking for their endorsement of this resolution; and

Be it Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the State Federation of Labor asking for their endorsement of this resolution; and

Be it Finally Resolved that all correspondence in this regard be forwarded to the local ACORN chapter at 5319 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94112 and/or emailed to caacornsfo@acorn.org.

Submitted by Conny Ford, OPEIU 3, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on September 28, 2009.

Respectfully,



Tim Paulson
Executive Director

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An Open Letter in Defense of ACORN ~ Stand with Me as I Stand by ACORN

Dear Friends:

For nearly 40 years ACORN has organized low-and moderate-income people to press corporations, governments and out-of-touch politicians for the changes needed to make their lives and communities healthier and stronger. Time and again ACORN members have shown how David can sometimes defeat Goliath.

Rooted in communities across America, ACORN has won victories at the local, state and national levels that have improved the lives of those who are usually left out of the corridors of power. ACORN has partnered with a wide array of allies from community and civil rights groups, to elected officials, to labor unions, to businesses to achieve positive change. An analysis of ACORN's work over the ten year period through 2007 concluded that the organization's work delivered \$15 billion in improvement and investment to communities. Whether in the best of times or the worst - praised or vilified - ACORN has always kept moving forward. That's why today I'm standing with ACORN, and I call on you to join me.

For the past year ACORN has been subjected to vicious attacks from some powerful enemies: corporate lobbyists, cynical politicians, and the right-wing media. In 2008, ACORN helped hundreds of thousands of minority voters register and get out to vote. Their reward was a blistering attack of historic proportions and repeated attempts by opponents of change to disenfranchise those voters. ACORN didn't back down; they fought back in the media and in the courts to defend the rights of all Americans to have a voice in our future. They stood with us then and that's why I'm standing with them now

In recent months ACORN has committed their resources and organizational strength in the struggles for quality, affordable health care for all Americans, ending the foreclosure crisis and achieving employee free choice, financial regulatory reform and the rights of immigrants. Just last month, during the summer recess, while the insurance lobby and their political allies were creating confusion, lies and disruptions, ACORN had more than 70 organizers working long hours to enable the voices of those without adequate health care to be heard in pro-health reform events in cities across the country. Once again—they stood with us and we should stand with them.

Now, the forces of reaction have unleashed another attack on ACORN. The FOX *not news-attack machine*, using illegally recorded tapes of a few employees' misconduct - for which they were immediately dismissed - are attempting to portray an isolated cases of misconduct as common practice. This is dishonest and a misrepresentation of the facts - and they know it! If FOX were a legitimate news agency, instead of a propaganda machine for the right, they would have shown on air the tapes of the seven other ACORN offices they visited and were properly ejected from and the tape of visiting the Philadelphia ACORN office where after being ejected a police report was filed. The same tactics were used by FOX-*not news* against Planned Parenthood to undermine that organization's mission of bringing affordable health care to women. Who's next in their ideological crusade?

Their intent is simple, to destroy the effectiveness of ACORN and deprive the progressive community of one of our most effective allies. We need ACORN by our side now more than ever and that is why I am proud to proclaim—"I am ACORN".

Please join with us as we support the work of ACORN because we need them now more than ever.

Signed,