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SUPPORT OF A LIVING WAGE

WHEREAS: A day's work deserves a fair day's pay – no one working full-time to support a family should have to live in poverty; and

WHEREAS: Despite some ups and downs over the past several decades, today's real average wage (that is, the wage after accounting for inflation) for Ohioans has about the same purchasing power it did 40 years ago; and

WHEREAS: Government and taxpayer dollars should encourage responsible corporate employers in the creation of family-supporting jobs that provide health care benefits; and

WHEREAS: One in five workers are finding their wages falling below the poverty level, even with Franklin County's record low unemployment rate; and

WHEREAS: The rising costs of food, housing, child care and transportation make it increasingly difficult for low-wage workers to make ends meet; and

WHEREAS: A worker with a full-time, minimum-wage job cannot afford a two-bedroom apartment in Ohio; and

WHEREAS: Women, especially minority women, make up a disproportionate share of the full-time working poor; and

WHEREAS: Union jobs provide a pathway out of poverty; and

WHEREAS: Local "Living Wage" campaigns that lift the pay for employees of firms receiving local tax dollars above the poverty level are passing all over the country; and

WHEREAS: A Living Wage will assure social and economic benefits for the community as a whole and a supportive environment for employers who try to maintain fair wages; and

WHEREAS: A Living Wage will decrease the need for public assistance programs by increasing family-sustaining jobs; and

WHEREAS: Implementation of Living Wage policies will increase sales tax revenues by increasing consumer spending and help stabilize the local economy; and

WHEREAS: A Living Wage will discourage government privatization and

contracting that feeds the growth of part-time, poverty-wage work; and

WHEREAS: A Living Wage will prevent “low-ball” contracting that results in low-quality service; and

WHEREAS: A Living Wage will result in lower turnover rates that will reduce the costs of recruitment, hiring and training and increase the quality and continuity of job performance; and

WHEREAS: A Living Wage will provide public vendors and businesses receiving economic development assistance with conscientious workers seeking jobs at adequate wages; and

WHEREAS: A Living Wage will increase incentives among low-wage workers to work and gain the experience and skills demanded in the job market.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Ohio AFL-CIO and its affiliates will support and encourage Central Labor Councils involvement with Living Wage Campaigns and supports the goal of raising base pay for employees of firms that contract for services with or receive economic assistance from local government above the federal poverty level for a family of four and to provide health care benefits.

Submitted by: The Central Ohio Labor Council, AFL-CIO