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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.

BY FALLON

A Resolution urging the University of Iowa to immediately withdraw from the fair labor association.

WHEREAS, sweatshops are workplaces in which people work in hazardous and substandard conditions, in situations which may include subminimum wages or nonpayment of wages, forced overtime, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, corporal punishment, child labor, forced birth control and pregnancy tests, illegal firings, and prohibitions of unions; and

WHEREAS, sweatshop conditions have been documented in the production of university-licensed apparel, including that of the University of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the University of Iowa is a public institution with a strong commitment to human rights, education, and research, partially funded by the citizens of Iowa, which joined the Fair Labor Association (FLA) June 15, 1999, as its initial gesture toward combating sweatshop labor; and

WHEREAS, serious allegations have arisen regarding conflicts of interests within the FLA and the domination of its board of directors by apparel corporations and by individuals and organizations that receive funding from corporations which profit from sweatshop labor; and

WHEREAS, due to the failure or inability of the FLA to require adequate safeguards, independent monitoring of or disclosure by apparel manufacturers, the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights and the

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1 University of Iowa Committee on Human Rights have
2 recommended that the University of Iowa immediately
3 withdraw from the FLA; and

4 WHEREAS, the University of Iowa has recently joined
5 the Workers Rights Consortium, which has a stronger
6 code of conduct than does the FLA, provides
7 independent monitoring of manufacturers, has the same
8 annual membership cost to the University as the FLA,
9 making the continued membership in the FLA a
10 financially redundant investment in an ineffectual
11 organization; and

12 WHEREAS, the University of Iowa's continued
13 affiliation with the FLA undermines its commitment to
14 reforming the collegiate apparel industry by
15 supporting an organization comprised of apparel
16 manufacturers and their supporters, organizations
17 which created, perpetuate, and profit from sweatshop
18 labor; NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
20 That the House of Representatives strongly urges the
21 administration of the University of Iowa to cancel its
22 membership in the Fair Labor Association and withdraw
23 its support from the Fair Labor Association, thus
24 confirming the integrity and moral leadership expected
25 of the University of Iowa by students, faculty,
26 alumni, and the citizens of Iowa.

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