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Iowa ACLU Office Suspends Quad Cities Chapter

by R. Ben Stone, ACLU-IA Executive Director

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The ACLU of Iowa has made the decision to suspend the Quad Cities Chapter of the ACLU. The state office cited difficulty in working with local officers in a cooperative relationship.

The Iowa state affiliate of the ACLU has for several months attempted to convince the local chapter leadership to comply with the authority of the state office to oversee its operations, as specified in long-standing national ACLU policy. These efforts have been met with resistance by the chapter's leaders, which resulted in the state affiliate's decision to suspend the chapter, effective immediately.

"The state board of the ACLU of Iowa has tried for more than six months to work with the local chapter to help it understand the necessity of operating under the direction of the state office, but over time it has become apparent that these efforts have not been successful," said Ben Stone, Executive Director of the ACLU of Iowa. "It is with regret that the leadership of the state board has determined that the chapter should cease operations until such time and place as it can be reconstituted with leaders who better understand the need to comply with the chapter's internal bylaws, as well as the role of chapters as they relate to the state and national offices of the ACLU," he added.