

R21.3

Resolution Urging Big Pharma Vaccine Access for the Most At-Risk Governments

Resolved, that Council use effective communications and policy resources to prevail upon the two best positioned U.S. pharmaceutical companies, specifically Pfizer and Moderna, to escalate Covid-19 vaccine access for the most at-risk governments during a global state of emergency that justifies (1) waiving standard intellectual property rights and (2) implementing transparency policies in contractual negotiations for vaccine sales and distribution.

EXPLANATION

The Episcopal Church is a signatory among dozens of advocacy groups, both faith-based and secular, to a letter dated September 19, 2021 that urged President Biden to promote a \$25 billion investment that would produce 8 billion Covid-19 vaccine doses within a year (appended). Also: Episcopal Relief and Development was signatory to an earlier, similar appeal to the President dated April 13, 2021, that urged the launching of a global vaccine manufacturing program (appended).

Meanwhile, the two pharmaceutical companies that have most benefitted financially from the pandemic continue to place profits over people (appended report: Public Citizen, October 19, 2021). Related reports represent Pfizer and Moderna as a vaccine ‘duopoly’ and indicate that they could immediately implement breakthrough outcomes in world vaccination results by changes in policy.

However, it is evident that public opinion will be necessary to impact Covid-19 policies that operate in a business-as-usual ethos and on a profit-driven basis. Such policies involve pre-pandemic intellectual property rights and secret negotiation practices that hold national governments hostage to corporate self-interest during an unprecedented world crisis. In addition to advocacy appeals like the appended letters to the President, public protests are required to get the attention and sway the status quo interests of pharmaceutical CEOs and their shareholders.

Appended:

1. April 13, 2021 Letter to President Biden that includes The Episcopal Church as a signatory (See other sources via internet keyword research)
2. September 19, 2021 Letter to President Biden that includes Episcopal Relief and Development as a signatory (See other sources via internet keyword research)
3. October 19, 2021 Public Citizen Report by Zain Rizvi, “Pfizer’s Power” (See other sources via internet keyword research)

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