

R23-4

~~Resolved, the Diocese of Atlanta meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, November 10 and 11, 2023, acknowledge that the vows of our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being and to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves are foundational in our relationships as members of the Body of Christ. And be it Further resolved that the 25 th Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew notes that what do or fail to do for the least among our siblings, we fail to do for God; And be it~~

~~Further resolved, that bills United States House of Representatives, such as HR4820 and HR5894 would conflict with both our Baptismal Covenant and the teachings in Matthew by severely reducing or eliminating critical funding for programs serving People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) such as the Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) and various HIV Health Services, aka Ryan White Programs; And be it~~

~~Further resolved, that such reductions in services and benefits would adversely impact the more than 59,000 PLWHA in the State of Georgia (and over 1 million PLWHA living in the United States); And be it~~

~~Further~~ **Be it** resolved that the Diocese of Atlanta urge the United States Senators and Members of the House of Representatives who represent the State of Georgia not support ~~the~~ **the** ~~mentioned~~ **mentioned** bills ~~and any similar bills~~ that negatively impact those living with HIV/AIDS; and be it

Further resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the United States Senators and Members of the United States House of Representatives who represent the State of Georgia.

Explanation:

The subject bills currently pending in the United States House of Representatives, if passed into law, would have a disastrous effect on People Living with HIV/AIDS in Georgia and the entire nation. These programs represent safety net programs that are the “last resort” for those in need of services. Data about the numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS is readily available through the website AIDSvu (www.aidsvu.org). Information about the pending bills is readily available through search engines such as Google or the website of the United States House of Representatives. HIV/AIDS remains a serious problem in Georgia and in our nation, despite not seen as visible as it once was.

Submitted by Bruce Garner, Lay Delegate, All Saints' Atlanta, and Chair of the Metropolitan Atlanta HIV Health Services Planning Council, aka The Ryan White Planning Council.