

### **R17-3 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education**

*Resolved*, that the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in Annual Council in Gainesville, Georgia, November 10 and 11, 2017, notes with grave concerns the fact that per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/index](http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/index)) the State of Georgia continues to rank among the ten states with the highest HIV/AIDS incidence in the nation and that the City of Atlanta continues to rank among the ten cities with the highest rates of HIV/AIDS in the nation; and be it further

*Resolved*, that because the Diocese of Atlanta has been engaged in ministry, pastoral care and HIV/AIDS prevention efforts since 1987; be it further

*Resolved*, that while the use of quarantine is often useful in preventing the spread of communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS is not transmitted through casual contact, and quarantine is NOT an appropriate mechanism for preventing its spread; and be it further

*Resolved*, that such mechanisms as quarantine only contribute to further stigmatization of those with HIV/AIDS and drive them away from treatment and prevention resources; and be it further

*Resolved*, that HIV/AIDS prevention (and treatment) involves more than epidemiology and mortality and must include addressing the issues of illiteracy, poverty, racism, homophobia, transphobia, stigma and ignorance; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Diocese of Atlanta urges the Georgia Legislature to direct state agencies tasked with HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and related education, to engage in realistic, explicit efforts to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS; and be it further

*Resolved*, that any prevention/education efforts must include Georgia's public schools and must be age appropriate and MUST include resources other than so-called "abstinence only" curricula; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Secretary of Annual Council be directed to send copies of this resolution to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, the Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health, and the Georgia State School Superintendent, and this body asks the Diocesan communications office to release this statement pursuant to the current policy protocol for press releases.