

## **R81-05: A resolution on a free choice with regard to abortion**

*Whereas*, the freedom of all persons, male and female, to make choices with regard to their reproductive lives is currently being threatened by the proposed Human Life Amendment and the Human Life Bill under consideration by the United States Congress; and

*Whereas*, the rights of many women, particularly poor women, to choose abortion when faced with a problem pregnancy have been restricted through federal legislation denying them funds or insurance coverage for this procedure, even when it is judged medically necessary; and

*Whereas*, in the State of Ohio, the rightful access of women to safe and legal abortion services is constantly threatened by proposed laws and ordinances (SB 315, HB 92, Cincinnati City Ordinance 7451); and

*Whereas*, nonetheless, there is legitimate Christian concern that the Church not appear to condone a selfish or casual use of abortion in our society, or to suggest that it is an option normally to be resorted to by Christians except as a prayerful and agonizing choice;

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio reaffirm its endorsement of the position taken by the 65th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1979 supporting freedom for all people to make conscientious decisions regarding abortion; and "...its unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the National or State governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions in the matter of abortion and to act upon them."; and

*Be it further resolved*, that this Convention deplores restriction of public funds for performing abortion; thus denying freedom to women in the armed services, in the Peace Corps; in all government employment, and all poor women in the United States, and this Convention urges that such restrictions be removed; and

*Be it further resolved*, that copies of this Resolution be sent to: the President and the Vice-President of the United States; the secretary of Health and Human Resources; the Governor of the State of Ohio; members of the House of Representatives from districts included in this Diocese; as well as members of the Ohio State Senate and House of Representatives from districts totally or partially within this Diocese; and

*Be it further resolved*, that nothing in this resolution is intended to contradict, undermine or devalue the commitment of this Church to the general Christian teaching that all life is sacred and to be cherished as the gift of the living God.