

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-D012
TITLE: Support of Transgender Civil Rights
PROPOSER: Byron Rushing
COMMITTEE: National and International Concerns

Directly Related: (attached)

2000-C029 Urge Congress to Enact Hate Crimes Legislation

Indirectly Related:

2006-A095 Reaffirm Support of Gay and Lesbian Persons
2006-A168 On the Topic of Human Rights of Homosexual Persons (Rejected)
2006-D005 Oppose Criminalization of Homosexuality
2000-C043 Affirm and Endorse The Cambridge Accord
1994-C019 Reaffirm Resolution on Equal Protection Under Law for Homosexuals
1994-D015 Reaffirm Support for Human Rights
1988-A085 Decry Violence Against Homosexuals and Urge Law Enforcement
1982-B061 Reaffirm the Civil Rights of Homosexuals
1976-A071 Support the Right of Homosexuals to Equal Protection of the Law

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.



Resolution Number: 2000-C029
Title: Urge Congress to Enact Hate Crimes Legislation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America urge members of the United States Congress to pass legislation which would amend the current federal law to include real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, and disability as protected under federal prosecution of a hate crime and expand the number of settings in which the law can be applied.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 303f.

09 - National and International Concerns

D012

TOPIC/TITLE: Support of Transgender Civil Rights

PROPOSER: Byron Rushing

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE:

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- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 76th General Convention of The
2 Episcopal Church supports the enactment of laws at the local, state and federal level that
3 a) prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or the expression of one's gender
4 identity, and b) treat physical violence inflicted on the basis of a victim's gender identity
5 or expression as a hate crime; and be it further
6
7 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of Convention convey this resolution to the Speaker of the
8 U.S. House of Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders in the U.S. Senate,
9 to the Chair of the National Governors Association, and to the President of the U. S.
10 Conference of Mayors.
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EXPLANATION:

At the time of this writing (April 2009), 13 states, Washington D.C., and 102 counties and cities have laws or statutes on their books protect transgender people. By passing this resolution, the Episcopal Church would urge the enactment of laws in federal, state, municipal levels in order make the protection of transgender people explicit, uniform, and visible to the general public. These protections can be enacted by simply including "gender identity or expression" in existing non-discrimination statutes and by amending existing hate crime laws to explicitly protect people targeted for violence and harassment based on gender identity or expression (defined as "a gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior of an individual, regardless of the individual's assigned sex at birth."). The Episcopal Church has long been committed to social justice and to the eradication of discrimination in all its forms both in civil society and within the Church. Although the "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community" are often referred to as a group, lesbian and gay people have made considerable advances over the last two decades, while transgender people - transsexuals and others who differ from societal gender norms - are still without legal protection for their basic civil rights. No one deserves to be fired, refused work, denied housing, education or credit, or suffer harassment or violence just because of who they are -- but transgender and gender non-conforming people routinely face all of these for transitioning from one sex to another, or simply for defying expectations of what a "normal" man or woman looks like. From 2002-2006, transgender victims of hate crimes comprised over 6.3% of the total number of anti-LGBT hate crime victims, a number completely disproportionate to their actual population. Transgender people report losing their jobs, being harassed by landlords, being denied credit, feeling unsafe in their own schools and even being turned away from local emergency rooms. Despite this profound vulnerability, transgender people are increasingly visible as productive participants in workplaces and communities of all types, including Episcopal congregations. By passing this resolution, the Episcopal Church would continue to practice the promises of our baptismal covenant: to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every

Endorser(s): Ms. Sarah E. Lawton, Diamante A. Tavolaro

human being. Furthermore, with our visible and public support for this resolution, the Church would encourage transgender people, along with all God's people, to bear witness to God's transforming presence in their lives, and to discern the various ministries into which God may be calling them. By raising our voices here, we would also invite the Church to open its eyes afresh to see God's hand at work in the world about us, and to deepen its inquiry into the holy mystery of the human person.

Endorser(s): Ms. Sarah E. Lawton, Diamante A. Tavoraro