

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C041
TITLE: Repair America's Safety Net
PROPOSER: Southern Ohio
TOPIC: Economic Justice

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A092 Affirm Support for Government Funding of Social Safety Net Programs
2015-A094 Support the Reduction of Economic Disparities by Progressive Taxation
2012-A080 Advocate for Just and Fair Taxation Systems
2003-D040 Reaffirm Commitment to Provide Affordable Housing for the Poor

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2009-D048 Urge Passage of a Universal Health Care Program
1994-D124 Commend and Encourage Church Efforts for Economic Justice
1991-D078 Affirm Commitment to Housing for Low and Moderate Income Residents
1985-A080 Call on the Government to Reorder Budget Priorities to Alleviate Hunger

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

C041 Repair America's Safety Net

Proposer	Diocese of Southern Ohio
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 08 - Social Justice and United States Policy
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church advocate unflinchingly for the federal and state governments of the United States to close gaps in the safety net which cause millions of Americans to suffer eviction, homelessness, inability to access health care, medical debt, and hunger; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That Episcopalians, dioceses, and The Episcopal Church advocate for government food assistance, health care coverage, and housing assistance to be entitlements, for which eligibility is determined by the applicant's current financial need and all eligible people receive the aid they qualify for; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That Episcopalians, dioceses, and The Episcopal Church oppose federal cuts in tax credits that benefit low-income families including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Child Care Credit, and advocate for similar tax credits at the state level; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That Episcopalians, dioceses, and The Episcopal Church oppose health care proposals 1) to limit public benefit funding to block grants, or 2) to cut off new enrollment of income-eligible people at a future date irrespective of their needs, or 3) to stipulate that people who lose eligibility when their income rises cannot re-enroll if their income falls again in the future due to loss of income, and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That Episcopalians and dioceses in the 19 states that did not accept the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion advocate with their state legislators and governors to accept this benefit and federal funding for their constituents; and be it further 31
- 6 *Resolved*, That Episcopalians, dioceses and The Episcopal Church call on Congress to make the cost-sharing provisions of the Affordable Care Act an entitlement; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That Episcopalians, dioceses and The Episcopal Church call on Congress to cap the mortgage interest deduction for wealthy taxpayers and direct the increased revenue to low-income housing assistance programs; and be it further

- 8 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$83,750 for 1/4 FTE staff person at the Office of Government Relations to track federal and state legislative proposals on public benefit funding and eligibility, and to provide timely action alerts to Bishop Breidenthal, dioceses, and Episcopal Public Policy Network

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2015-A092
Title: Affirm Support for Government Funding of Social Safety Net Programs
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm that God has provided for all of creation, forming a world of sufficiency for all, and that inequality exists not because there is not enough, but because of the way resources are distributed; we depend on God and one another and are commanded to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the suffering and afflicted; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention affirm its support for full and adequate funding of social safety net programs such as Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), food assistance for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the National School Lunch Program, all of which lift and keep people out of poverty and address basic food and health care needs in vulnerable populations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 277.



Resolution Number: 2015-A094
Title: Support the Reduction of Economic Disparities by Progressive Taxation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support efforts to reduce economic disparities in the United States by:
Calling for a reversal of federal and state tax cuts that have increased the wealth gap and reduced budget revenue for domestic needs; and
Calling for a reversal of the recent erosion of progressivity in federal and state tax rates, as progressive tax rates are a means of building a strong middle class, and an important means of reducing severe inequalities of income and wealth.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 302.



Resolution Number: 2012-A080
Title: Advocate for Just and Fair Taxation Systems
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commit to working toward a just and fair system of taxation and government funding by affirming the following Scriptural principles for our advocacy in connection with the support of government, the distribution of the burdens of that support, and the stewardship of those resources:

Every Christian has an obligation to financially support lawfully constituted governments and to comply fully with the tax laws which apply to him or her, and to the organizations of which they are a part; and

Tax laws should impose proportional burdens on those with higher incomes and larger resources, in keeping with the Bible's teaching that God favors the poor; and

Those entrusted with public resources must act as good stewards; and

Recognizing the great disparities in wealth and opportunity in our society, Christians should insist that our governments seek economic justice, emphasizing the care and protection of the most vulnerable – the poor, the hungry, the sick – people for whose care Christ has taught us we are responsible, both through private efforts and through the collective work of our elected government.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 255-256.



Resolution Number: 2003-D040
Title: Reaffirm Commitment to Provide Affordable Housing for the Poor
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 74th General Convention reaffirm its commitment to providing rental and owner-occupied housing that is safe, accessible, and affordable for low-income and moderate-income persons and their families including persons with disabilities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Governmental Relations urge the executive and legislative branches of the federal government and the dioceses to encourage state and local units of government to ensure that housing assistance programs are adequately funded to address the growing gap between the number of affordable housing units available and the number of renter households in the bottom quartile of income in this nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention strongly encourage the local parish and interfaith community partnerships to address the lack of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families including persons with disabilities throughout this nation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention urge the Episcopal Network for Economic Justice to identify existing and new opportunities for involvement in the creation and investment in affordable housing and to report through the Jubilee Ministries Advisory Committee on the status of this work to the 75th General Convention and on the opportunities for The Episcopal Church to become involved in the creation of affordable housing.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 332f.