Resolution Title: Affordable Healthcare for Social Justice

Submitted by: Mark MacCarthy, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Bethesda

RESOLVED, that the One Hundred Thirtieth Convention of the Diocese of Washington acknowledges that The Episcopal Church General Conventions have encouraged national policy makers to address the issue of affordable healthcare for all; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention recognizes that the 2009 General Convention urged Congress to pass legislation guaranteeing adequate healthcare and insurance for every citizen, and the 2022 General Convention encouraged Congress to address healthcare bias by passing legislation to address implicit bias and unconscious bias; address data challenges; address Social Determinants Of Health; and invest in healthcare professional diversity, and be it further

RESOLVED, that in accordance with these prior resolutions of the General Conventions the Diocese of Washington endorse full funding for government measures to provide for access to affordable, high quality health care for all and especially for those who face economic and social challenges and cannot afford insurance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention urges the Diocese and its parishes to inform themselves about local healthcare needs of the underserved and to support full funding for local government programs that provide health care to underserved populations within the Diocese, for instance, through hosting community forums in partnership with local clinics and government officials.

EXPLANATION: As Christians we believe that all are equal in the eyes of God and therefore are all equally deserving of dignity and respect. All should enjoy the right to access essential goods and services, such as healthcare. But there are significant disparities in access to healthcare, even within the Washington Diocese. For example, residents in Bethesda, Chevy Chase, and Potomac have greater length of life compared to those living in Montgomery Village, Silver Spring, and Poolesville. Another example: those without health insurance in Montgomery County vary by race and ethnicity from the highest at 19.2% of Hispanic residents to just 2.0% of non-Hispanic white residents. Adequately funded local measures are needed to address these inequities. The resolution urges the Diocese and its parishes to inform themselves about local healthcare needs of the underserved, for instance, through healthcare forums in partnership with local clinics and government officials and to support local measures to provide for affordable healthcare. The 2009 General Convention urged Congress to pass legislation in 2009 guaranteeing adequate healthcare and insurance for every citizen. (D088). The 2022 General Convention encouraged Congress to address healthcare bias by

passing legislation to address implicit bias and unconscious bias; address data challenges; address Social Determinants Of Health; and invest in healthcare professional diversity. (D002) This resolution's builds on these earlier resolutions and adds a focus on local funding and action. As Justin Welby, former Archbishop of Canterbury, says: "A good society in Christian terms does not leave people behind, alone or abandoned, and does not consider them to be mere instruments within an economic system."