



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

RESOLUTION ON THE ISSUE OF DRUG ADDICTION AND TREATMENT

Adopted by the Vestry of All Saints Church, Pasadena, on July 18, 2000

WHEREAS, the Vestry of All Saints Church believes that the problems of drug addiction and abuse are most humanely and effectively addressed through treatment and understanding, rather than punishment and retribution,

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (hereinafter, the 'Act') has been qualified to appear on the November general election ballot and requires and authorizes the diversion of persons charged with non-violent drug-possession offenses away from prison and into court-supervised drug treatment programs,

WHEREAS, such treatment programs will be specifically tailored to the needs of the individual offender and will help strengthen families and communities,

WHEREAS, treatment of drug addiction and abuse will tend to lessen the disparate impact of drug-related convictions on minority communities,

WHEREAS, the Act is specifically and narrowly tailored so as to affect the disposition only of cases of non-violent, drug-possession offenders, leaving unaffected the dispositional treatment of other types of offenders,

WHEREAS, the Act does nothing to de-criminalize those acts which are currently denominated criminal offenses,

WHEREAS, the Legislative Analyst of the state legislature estimates that 25,000 offenders, who would otherwise have been incarcerated in the state prison system, and 12,000 offenders, who would otherwise have been incarcerated in county jails, will be diverted into community-based treatment programs resulting in (1) a reduction in required prison capacity of ten- to twelve-thousand beds (2) savings in prison operating costs between \$200 million and \$250 million per year which would be realized within several years of the Act's passage (3) and avoidance of long-term prison construction costs totaling \$475 to \$575 million dollars as the result of a delay in, or avoidance of, additional prison construction,

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Vestry of All Saints Episcopal Church, shall, and does, support the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 and urges its enactment.