

Governmental Restrictions upon Private Social Agencies

WHEREAS there is a growing tendency among state and federal government officials to place upon private social agencies additional and burdensome restrictions; and

WHEREAS Assembly Bill A795 of the Wisconsin legislature contains certain provisions which, if enacted, would violate our religious convictions as Baptists, and would affect adversely the operations of our Regular Baptist Agency, Shepherds Home and School; and

WHEREAS this bill declares that no child alleged to be developmentally disabled (mentally retarded) may be placed outside his home unless represented by counsel or guardian *ad litem*; and

WHEREAS said bill gives the courts exclusive jurisdiction over children who are alleged to be developmentally disabled (mentally retarded) and in need of placement services; and

WHEREAS there are no other objectionable features to this bill;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in annual session at Winona Lake, Indiana, June 23–27, 1975, reaffirm that we believe the parents and not the state have a God-given responsibility for the welfare of their own children, and that to give prior responsibility to the state in such matters is completely contrary to our religious principles as Baptists; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we strongly oppose any effort on the part of federal, state, or local authorities to introduce upon the operation of private, Christian social agencies unwarranted restrictions which are contrary to both the teachings of the Bible and the rights of United States citizens

*Winona Lake, Indiana,
June 23–27, 1975*