

The AIDS Virus

WHEREAS an article titled, "U.S. Response to Teen AIDS Called 'National Disgrace'" (Associated Press, Washington, D.C.), appearing in the *Buffalo News*, Sunday, April 12, 1992, condemned the spread of AIDS among adolescents and condemned the federal government's response as "a national disgrace"; and

WHEREAS the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families said, "federal prevention efforts are hampered by moralistic restrictions that prevent explicit or specific information about high-risk sexual practices"; and

WHEREAS the article continues, "Prevention efforts to curb risk-taking behavior among youth are sketchy. And use of explicit information about preventing HIV infection is often discouraged or even prohibited"; and

WHEREAS eight people on the panel "took issue with the finding, saying AIDS among teens is primarily a behavioral, rather than a health problem"; and

WHEREAS in their "dissenting report, they said sexual abstinence and strengthening the family, not more government programs, were the answer"; and

WHEREAS the dissenters on the panel further said, "The fact that some teens engage in unhealthy behavior should not discourage us as a society from promoting moral conduct"; and

WHEREAS information provided by the federal Centers for Disease Control reveals alarming statistics concerning AIDS among teens, such as a 70 percent increase in the past two years in the number of teens who have contracted the disease; AIDS is the sixth leading cause of death among youth ages 15-24; and among teens ages 13 to 19, 401 cases of AIDS were reported in 1989, compared with 789 cases in 1991;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 61st Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 22-26, 1992, commend the members of the panel who issued the dissenting report in which they expressed the Biblical basis for sex within marriage and the need for us as a society to promote moral

conduct rooted in the teachings of the Bible (Ephesians 5:22–33; Hebrews 13:4); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage our churches to do all possible to teach young people, by precept and example, the moral values of the Bible, in order to give them the help they need to live for Jesus Christ in this evil society.

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 22-26, 1992*