

**Passed as amended**  
**RESOLUTION**  
**ON RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS**

**Presented by:** The Rev. Sheila McJilton

**Co-sponsored by:** The Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, The Very Rev. Randy Hollerith, The Rev. Glenna Huber, The Rev. Peter Jarrett-Schell, The Rev. Kym Lucas, The Rev. David Wacaster, The Rev. Richard Weinberg, and Mr. Benjamin Gray.

- 1 ***Resolved***, that the One Hundred Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the  
2 Convention of the Diocese of Washington recognizes:
- 3 • That responsible governance is the first duty of all elected leaders;
  - 4 • That the protracted partial shut-down of the Federal Government served no  
5 justifiable purpose, and was therefore irresponsible;
  - 6 • That this partial shut-down of the Federal Government, the longest in our  
7 nation's history, caused, and continues to cause, great hardship for many  
8 residents of this nation, especially for the many public servants employed by  
9 the Federal Government, and those who depend on essential services of our  
10 government;
  - 11 • That, as our Lord and Savior declared: "the laborer deserves their wages,"  
12 (Luke 10:7), and it is immoral to demand the labor of essential public  
13 servants without fair compensation, a practice which the partial shut-down  
14 required;
  - 15 • That the current, three-week funding plan still places public servants in a  
16 position of uncertainty and hardship; and
  - 17 • That our faith teaches us every human being is a beloved child of God  
18 worthy of respect, and we believe it is immoral to use innocent federal  
19 employees and their families as pawns in a completely unrelated political  
20 struggle.

21 and be it further *Resolved*, that that the One Hundred Twenty-Fourth Annual  
22 Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Washington:

- 23 • Exhorts Congress and the current Administration to pay furloughed Federal  
24 employees and government contractors the wages they are due as quickly  
25 as possible, to pass legislation funding the government for at least six  
26 months, and to publicly resolve to never again shut-down the Federal  
27 Government ~~for non-related political purposes~~;
- 28 • Directs the Secretary of the Convention to forward this resolution to the  
29 office of the President of the United States of America and the offices of the  
30 Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Majority Leader.

**EXPLANATION:**

Any government shut-down damages the country enormously. Essential services for the health, safety, and security of the nation are put on hold. Hundreds of thousands of public servants and Government contractors are forced to live without pay; and many are required to work without compensation. Private businesses patronized by federal employees and contractors are also damaged economically.

The consensus of reputable economists is that government shut-downs constitute a tremendous drag on the economy. Given the density of Federal employees and contractors in our region, we experience these effects more quickly and acutely than the nation at large. For the Diocese of Washington, this is a local issue. And, as many of our own members are directly impacted by any Government shut-down, it is entirely reasonable and faithful for this body to make its will known on this matter.