

POLICY STATEMENT ON AIDS

Judaism has traditionally held the care of the sick, reflected in the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim, to be a social priority and the preservation of life, embodied in the concept of Pikuah Nefesh, to be a moral imperative. Currently our society, and the world generally, is confronted with a health crisis of epidemic proportions, the acquired immune-deficiency syndrome or AIDS. Our Jewish traditions forbid irrational and superstitious reactions to the disease and rather dictate that we must be sensitive to the sufferings of those with AIDS and their families (Shituf Betsa'ar) and must act responsibly to prevent its spread.

The Milwaukee Jewish Council, Inc. specifically urges that the appropriate governmental and social agencies act to provide adequate funding for research, to provide adequate treatment, counselling programs and care facilities, including those for the poor and uninsured, to prevent invidious discrimination against those infected with the HIV virus or suspected of being "at risk", and to educate the public both as to the true nature of the disease and means of its prevention.

Adopted January 17, 1990