



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 11, 2022

House Bill 1364

Health Care Freedom of Conscience of Act

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: Support

The Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

HB 1364 would authorize health care providers and health care practitioners to decline to participate in a health care service that violates their conscience.

It is increasingly evident that there are efforts in our country and State to force medical providers to either perform actions against their personal conscience or leave the profession completely. Faith-based professionals are being driven out of medicine.

Only robust legal protection of conscience rights will ensure the continued services of many medical professionals who are working tirelessly to heal and prevent illness.

It is for these reasons that the Maryland Catholic Conference respectfully urges a favorable report for HB 1364. Thank you for your consideration.