



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE  
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal  
Public Policy  
Network

**Testimony in Support of SB 579**

**Primary and Secondary Education - Breakfast and Lunch Programs - Universal  
Expansion**

**\*\*FAVORABLE\*\***

TO: Sen. Guy Guzzone, Chair; Sen. Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair; and the members  
of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Rev. Margaret E. VanAuker, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese  
of Maryland

DATE: February 14, 2024

One of the core beliefs of The Episcopal Church is that we should strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. This includes respecting the dignity of every child by supporting quality breakfast and lunch during the school days.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland supported, at its General Conventions, resolutions that support nutritional programs for children:

Episcopal Church Resolution GC 2015-A032 reaffirms the commitment to address poverty and hunger, focusing on child hood education and the commitment to federal nutrition programs and to other safety net programs that address basic food and health care need in vulnerable populations.

We believe that giving this bill SB 579 a FAVORABLE report would provide the nutrition that the children of Maryland need.

We urge a favorable report.