



**MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE**

March 05, 2024

HB 883

**Department of Information Technology – Evaluation of Emerging Technologies (Maryland
Artificial Intelligence in Governmental Services Act)**

House Health & Government Operations Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of House Bill 883. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

House Bill 883 concerns the evaluation of emerging technologies in providing public services by the Secretary of Information Technology. This legislation reflects the values of stewardship, accountability, and respect for human life inherent in our Catholic faith.

Emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), hold immense potential to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, thereby improving the well-being of individuals and communities. However, it is imperative that we approach the implementation of these technologies with careful consideration of their ethical implications and potential impacts on human dignity.

The proposed legislation emphasizes the importance of evaluating the use of emerging technologies to ensure that public services remain responsive to the needs of Marylanders. By requiring assessments of both the benefits and risks associated with the deployment of AI and other emerging technologies, this legislation promotes a holistic understanding of their impact on individuals and society.

It is essential to prioritize the common good and uphold the dignity of every person, especially the most vulnerable among us. As we embrace technological advancements, we must remain vigilant in safeguarding human rights. The use of emerging technologies should always be guided by principles of justice, solidarity, and the promotion of integral human development.

The MCC appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 883.

