



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0223

**Department of Aging – Social Connections Program
- Establishment**

Finance Committee

FAVORABLE

TO: Sen. Pam Beidle, Chair; Sen. Antonio Hayes, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Ms. Lynn Mortoro, Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: January 22, 2025

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask for a Favorable Report on SB 0223.

The Episcopal Church is very committed to helping to solve the issues of Social Isolation. Any assistance with Social Connections is vital to the comfort and the very survival of the elderly and disabled people.

There have been studies done on the effects of the lack of social connections as we age and the problems that isolation brings. This bill takes one that instead of just checking to see that someone is still able to answer a phone to a different level, that of encouragement and assistance in developing connections that will enhance their lives and ensure safety as well.

The Diocese requests a Favorable Report on this Bill.