



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0158

Department of Aging - Social Connections Program - Establishment

FAVORABLE

DATE: January 29, 2025

TO: Chair Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Co Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and all members of the Health and Government Operations Committee.

FROM: Lynn R. Mortoro, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network. (MEPPN)

DATE: January 29, 2025

Chair Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask for a Favorable Report on HB0158. 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.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal
Public Policy
Network

The Diocese of Maryland requests a report