



FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS
TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1222
Public Safety-Immigration Enforcement (Maryland Values Act)

**TO: Senator William C. Smith, Chair, Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice Chair,
and all members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee;**
**FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, co-chair of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy
Network. (MEPPN);**
DATE: March 27, 2025

The National Episcopal Church and the Maryland Episcopal Diocese have consistently supported the rights of immigrants. On January 21, 2025, our leaders stated:

“As Christians, our faith is shaped by the biblical story of people whom God led into foreign countries to escape oppression. Exodus tells us the story of the ancient Israelites escaping slavery in the land of Egypt and wandering in the wilderness without a home. In Leviticus 19:33-34, God commands that we remember this sojourn as part of our own story of faith: ‘When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.’

Now, as Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:12-19, we are no longer aliens. Christ Jesus has made us citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. As we read in 1 Peter 2:9-12, we have received God’s mercy, and we must demonstrate this sacrificial love in our lives and deeds. Because our true citizenship is not here on earth but in heaven, we are called to transcend the earthly distinctions made among us by the leaders of this world. We must proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is promised to the persecuted and answer Christ’s call to welcome the stranger among us. This vision of God’s kingdom, this new reality, is the one to which we Christians are pledged in our baptism above any political preference or policy, and to which our church must bear witness through word and deed. This sacred call shapes both our churchwide commitment to stand with migrants and the ministries of congregations across our church who serve vulnerable immigrants and refugees in their communities.

Since the late 19th century, The Episcopal Church has followed this call by welcoming immigrants and refugees to the United States...We **urge our new**



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president and congressional leaders to exercise mercy and compassion, especially toward law-abiding, long-term members of our congregations and communities; parents and children who are under threat of separation in the name of immigration enforcement; and women and children who are vulnerable to abuse in detention and who fear reporting abuse to law enforcement.”

We support this Bill with amendments because it upholds Maryland values and preserves the dignity and respect of immigrants who are children of God by providing community safety, due process and equal treatment under the law.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a FAVORABLE report on Bill HB1222.