



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**March 13, 2020**

**House Bill 1162  
Health – Abortions – Reporting Requirements**

**House Health and Government Operations Committee**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the mutual public-policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, including the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. We offer this testimony in support of House Bill 1162.

HB 1162 would require abortions to be included annually in Maryland’s Vital Statistic Report, expanding applicable data as it pertains to women’s health as well as prenatal and maternal risk factors. Without examining the full scope of the problem, a solution cannot be presented, and the State cannot provide the resources to improve the health of women and their families.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “47 states require mandatory abortion reporting” and notes, “abortion reporting is important to define characteristics of women at high-risk for unintended pregnancy, maternal mortality, pre-term delivery, and labor complications.” House Bill 1162 would allow Maryland to compile state-wide data on health services advancing the state of medical knowledge concerning maternal and fetal health. Abortion and pregnancy rates can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of family planning programs and programs for preventing unintended pregnancies.

A complete statistical profile of pregnancy is very useful to promote life in our State. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1162.

