



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 13, 2020

**House Bill 1227
Abortion – Ultrasound Requirement**

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 1227.

HB 1227 would require certain physicians or qualified technicians to provide certain information to a woman before she provides informed consent prior to having any part of an abortion performed or induced. This information that would be provided to the woman is the ability see an ultrasound image and hear the fetal heartbeat.

Women need information, complete and accurate information, it's part of the informed consent process. To deny women the choice of seeing an ultrasound image or hearing a fetal heartbeat would be denying them vital information that they need to make a truly informed consent regarding an abortion. This bill is about arming women with information vital to their decision whether to continue their pregnancy. Please give all women the chance to make a truly informed decision.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 1227.