



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 0130

Commission on LGBTQ Affairs--Established
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Good afternoon Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, members of the Senate Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee. My name is Joseph Clapsaddle, a resident of Arnold and an Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission Commissioner. Today, I represent the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN). The MEPPN is here on behalf of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The MEPPN
HB 130.

This bill establishes the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI). The commission will assess the challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities. In addition, it will collect data across State agencies on the implementation of LGBTQ-inclusive policies and complaints alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This information will allow the Commission to complete an assessment of laws and other protections for LGBTQ workers and residents in Maryland. Such a Commission can serve as a place where people in Maryland throughout Maryland can find information pertaining their region.

Presently, we do not know the extent of discrimination against LGBTQ workers and residents in Maryland. This Commission will have the authority to investigate and make public the extent of any such discrimination.

We respectfully request a favorable report.