



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**SB 829**

**Department of Human Services - Family Investment Program - Contract and Program Review**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public-policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 829 which requires the Department of Human Services to hire an outside consultant to conduct a thorough review of the Temporary Cash Assistance Program – through a trauma-informed, anti-racist, client-centered assessment - to ensure the program is employing best practices that will achieve meaningful outcomes for family economic stability. Moreover, the bill requires the Department to annually review all of their contracts with workforce vendors to examine if the programs are providing tangible, marketable skills that lead to quality employment opportunities for TCA recipients.

The Maryland Catholic Conferences supports policies that protect human life and dignity, strengthen families, encourage and reward work, preserve a safety net for the vulnerable, and build public/private partnerships to overcome poverty. State policies should form a "Circle of Protection" around programs that serve poor and vulnerable people in our communities and avoid placing additional burdens on people and families struggling to live in dignity. Senate Bill 829 seeks to examine the current Temporary Cash Assistance Program and make suggestions to how the program can be improved to greatly benefit our most vulnerable Marylanders.

For these reasons, the Conference appreciates your consideration and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 829.