



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 11, 2022

**House Bill 735
Public Health - Abortion**

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: Support

The Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

HB 735 seeks to accomplish many objectives; most importantly prohibiting abortion after detection of a fetal heartbeat.

This bill addresses issues such as testing, informed consent, and recordkeeping requirements which are consistent with Supreme Court precedent upholding common-sense abortion regulations. HB 735 also attempts to secure additional protection for unborn children, namely, those whose hearts have begun to beat. By calling a halt to the intentional taking of innocent human lives with beating hearts, the prohibition section of the bill calls upon the courts to allow states to provide a level of protection for unborn children against abortion that is more consistent with basic human dignity.

It is for these reasons that the Maryland Catholic Conference respectfully urges a favorable report for HB 735. Thank you for your consideration.