



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT  
HB 0182

State Procurement—Certification of LGBTQ Businesses  
Health and Government Operations Committee

Good afternoon, Chair Pendergrass, Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk, members of the Health and Government Operations 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). 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 Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB 182. HB 182 requires the State to identify businesses and track the use of certified lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) businesses on State procurement contracts. It also requires the certification agency to publish the list on its website.

Gathering this information and making it public will help to assess the challenges facing LGBTQ businesses. In addition, it will collect data across on the treatment LGBTQ businesses by State agencies. This information will help to reveal discrimination by the agencies based on sexual orientation or gender identity for LGBTQ businesses and residents in Maryland. Publication of this information can serve as a place where people throughout Maryland can find information pertaining to their region. Presently, we do not know the extent of discrimination against LGBTQ businesses and residents in Maryland. HB 182 will help to reveal the extent of any such discrimination.

We respectfully request a favorable report.