



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0283

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Gender-Affirming Treatment (Trans Health Equity Act)

Requiring, beginning on January 1, 2023, the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to provide gender-affirming treatment in a nondiscriminatory manner; requiring that the gender-affirming treatment be assessed according to nondiscriminatory criteria that are consistent with current clinical standards

FAVORABLE

DATE: February 10, 2023

TO: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair, Delegate Ariana B. Kelly, Vice Chair and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee.

FROM: Lynn Mortoro, Member, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: February 10, 2023

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Ariana Kelly and all members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB0283

The Episcopal Church supports [comprehensive health care](#) and recognizes the need for [universal and equitable access for all](#). General Convention [urges](#) Episcopalians to advocate for adequate health care, along with nutrition and housing, as human rights that should be provided to all those residing in our nation, including [veterans](#). This advocacy on a number of healthcare policy asks is viewed as a Church ministry and as a way to promote healthy American communities.

Who we are and how we see ourselves is important to a healthy and functioning society. As we all have seen, “others” have been outcast, ignored or worse. Recognizing the differences and helping people to feel comfortable with themselves is vital to our society. Giving care and support to everyone is what we need to do to become that inclusive society we should aim to be.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report