

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0814

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – State–Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program – Sunset Repeal

FAVORABLE

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bill that will help to keep our young adults covered with essential health insurance. It is vital that we help our citizens, young and old, to stay insured. This helps all of us with lowered health costs resulting from a healthier population with fewer uncovered health issues.

The Episcopal Church supports comprehensive health care and recognizes the need for universal and equitable access for all. Our 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 is viewed as a vital ministry for all of God's children, and as a way to promote healthy American communities.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.