



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 22, 2024

SB 1087

Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) offers this testimony in support of Senate Bill 1087. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 1087 is legislation that would establish the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission. This forward-thinking initiative reflects our commitment to harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) for the common good while ensuring ethical oversight, accountability, and equitable access to its benefits. As Pope Francis recently remarked *"I am convinced that the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning has the potential to contribute in a positive way to the future of humanity...I am certain that this potential will be realized only if there is a constant and consistent commitment on the part of those developing these technologies to act ethically and responsibly."*

The Catholic Church teaches that technological advancements, including those in the field of artificial intelligence, should be guided by principles of human dignity, solidarity, and the common good. As AI continues to play an increasingly significant role in our lives, it is essential that we approach its development and deployment with careful consideration for its impact on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

The establishment of the Maryland Artificial Intelligence Advisory and Oversight Commission represents a proactive and responsible approach to navigating the opportunities and challenges presented by AI technology. By bringing together experts from diverse fields, including ethics, law, technology, and social sciences, the Commission will provide invaluable guidance and recommendations to ensure that AI development in our state is conducted ethically, transparently, and in the service of human flourishing.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 1087.

