



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 0571:

**Consumer Protection - Online Products and Services - Data of
Children (Maryland Kids Code)**

****FAVORABLE****

February 14, 2024

TO: Senator Pamela Beidle, Chair, Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair and the members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 14, 2024

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland strongly supports this Bill. This Bill would offer privacy and safety to Maryland children online by offering a comprehensive set of rules for the protection of children's data within the context of what is in the child's best interest. The policies and standards set forth provide safety and privacy for children in part by restricting data collection, sharing, profiling and the use of data in ways that are detrimental to the child.

The Episcopal Church believes strongly that each child is a child of God and deserves protection from in-person and online harassment. A child routinely needs to access the internet to conduct research, etc. for school. A child should not have to be concerned about possible exploitation as a result of their online activity.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.