



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

February 1, 2024

The Hon. William Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Senate
Maryland General Assembly
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Submitted electronically

RE: SB0429 (cross-filed with HB0391)

Dear Chair Smith:

I am writing in support of SB0429, entitled "Corporations and Associations – Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Washington."

I serve as the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. Our Diocese comprises 104 Episcopal congregations located in Maryland.

I urge the General Assembly to pass SB0429 in order to make uniform the corporate organization of Episcopal parishes throughout Maryland. My colleagues in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington have asked for our support of this measure, in order to repeal the outdated 1700s-era laws that currently apply only to parishes in the Diocese of Washington. These same changes were already made for the Diocese of Maryland in the 1970s and the Diocese of Easton in the 1990s. If passed, SB0429 will provide the same treatment to parishes in the Diocese of Washington as already applies in the Dioceses of Maryland and Easton.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Kristofer Lindh-Payne, canon to the ordinary for leadership.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland