



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0550
Children - Labor Trafficking**

Adding labor trafficking by a child's parent or guardian to the list of conditions under which a local department of social services is authorized to ask the juvenile court in a child in need of assistance proceeding to find that reasonable efforts to reunify a child with the child's parent or guardian are not required; and expanding provisions of law relating to the Safe Harbor Regional Navigator Grant Program to apply to child victims of labor trafficking.

FAVORABLE

February 16, 2024

TO: Chair Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

FROM: Lynn Mortoro, member, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 16, 2024

Chair Senator W. C. Smith, Jr, Vice Chair Senator Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland strongly urges passage of SB0550. It has taken strong positions against child trafficking and is for any protections that are able to be legislated for children. Keeping them safe from those who were involved in the trafficking of these victims, even parents, is needed. Anything to protect them is what must happen.

As a parent and grandparent, I cannot think of a more vile act than to involve a child in this.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report