



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0508  
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 13, 2024**

**TO:** Chair, Delegate Luke Clippinger, Vice Chair, Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee.

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

**DATE:** February 13, 2024

Chair Delegate Clippinger, Vice Chair Delegate Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland strongly urges passage of HB0508. 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