



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0037**

**Declaration of Rights – Right to Organize**

**Appropriations Committee**

**FAVORABLE**

TO: Hon. Ben Barnes, Chair; Hon. Mark S. Chang, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Jr., The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

DATE: January 28, 2025

The Episcopal Church has consistently recognized the role of the labor movement in securing a place for workers at the table and providing them with an opportunity for their voices to be heard, in improving wages, benefits and working conditions, and in affirming the dignity of work and providing avenues of seeking justice at the workplace. (Resolution 2012-D028 reaffirms our long history of support and solidarity with wage earners)

Our Church further recognizes the role of labor unions in struggling for civil rights, for social security, medical care and bringing about democratic reforms and calls for the “Church and the labor movement to work together, along with others of good will, for the common good, and for a more just society.”

Additionally, our General Convention is on record in opposition to legislative attempts to eliminate or reduce the collective bargaining rights of public and private sector employees and views such actions as running contrary to our gospel understanding of community.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a Favorable report