



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB0001

**LEGALLY PROTECTED HEALTH CARE REPRODUCTIVE, FERTILITY
PRESERVATION, AND CONTRACEPTIVE TREATMENT AND SERVICES
(IVF AND CONTRACTION SHIELD ACT OF 2025)**

****FAVORABLE****

TO: Senator Pamela Beedle, Chair, Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair and the members of the Finance Committee

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

DATE: January 23, 2025

We support this very important bill that will provide protections for users of certain legally protected health care, including of IVF. The Episcopal Church recognizes the challenges of infertility, and since 1982, we have supported in vitro fertilization (IVF), Resolution Number: 1982-A067. and stated: That this 67th General Convention of the Episcopal Church gives approval to usage of so-called "in vitro" fertilization for the purpose of providing children in a marriage." Since its development in the 1970s, in vitro fertilization (IVF) has proven itself to be a safe, effective, and reliable means to achieving pregnancy. IVF has allowed millions of aspiring parents to experience the miracle of childbirth. IVF is a pro-woman and pro-family solution for those struggling to have children. IVF has become a symbol of hope for those aspiring to conceive. It is now estimated that nearly 2 percent of all live births in the United States are the result of IVF, resulting in tens of thousands of happy, healthy babies being born annually. The use of IVF has strengthened our communities and our nation by promoting generations of children and families that otherwise may not have come to be. The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges a favorable vote.