



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SJ0001
RATIFYING THE FEDERAL CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT**

****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 22, 202

We urge this Committee to favorably act upon SJ0001, in order to protect children in the workplace. We believe that children, as children of God, deserve dignity and respect, and most of all, love. We would be demonstrating that we believe this to be true by adopting this Amendment. This would ensure consistent child labor protections across all states, eliminating disparities where some states might have weaker regulations than others. By limiting child labor, the Amendment could safeguard children's physical and mental health, allowing them to prioritize education and development. In addition, this Amendment could empower Congress to target and combat particularly exploitative child labor practices, including those in hazardous industries. Finally, A federal standard could prevent businesses from gaining an unfair advantage by employing children at lower wages in states with lax child labor laws.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges a favorable vote.