



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0141

Task Force on Loneliness and Isolation

FAVORABLE

DATE January 29, 2025

TO: Chair Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and all members of the Health and Government Operations Committee.

FROM: Lynn R. Mortoro, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network. (MEPPN)

DATE: January 29, 2025

Chair Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to write testimony in favor of HB0141.

The Episcopal Church has been concerned and working on the issues of Loneliness and Isolation, especially in our Senior population for many years. There are efforts in many dioceses all over this country who are trying to address this issue.

There are many documented health concerns all leading back to the problems of Loneliness and Isolation.

Chronic loneliness for example has is as detrimental to health as is smoking 15 cigarettes per day! There is also documentation of increased rates of suicide.

Many in our communities are experiencing these problems and we have an obligation to study and act on solutions.

The Diocese requests a Favorable Report on this Bill.