



TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1271

HEALTH-ABORTION-ULTRASOUND AND WAIT TIME

UNFAVORABLE

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

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

DATE: February 27, 2025

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

I am a retired Registered Nurse and am very concerned about this proposed bill. Thank you for allowing me to write about such important and I believe, a damaging proposal.

To my knowledge, the State of Maryland does not require an ultrasound to be done prior to an abortion.

If a woman goes in for an ultrasound, she and her practitioner may have determined that one needs to be performed in order to diagnose the cause of, for example, abdominal pain. Wait times after ultrasound or other diagnostic procedures can be dangerous for the woman. Women have become seriously ill or have died because laws in that state have forced waiting times. In any event, any decision is should be between a woman and her practitioner. Since 1967, The Episcopal Church has maintained its “unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions about the termination of pregnancy and to act upon them.”

The Diocese of Maryland requests an UNFAVORABLE report