



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal  
Public Policy  
Network

## **TESTIMONY REGARDING HB0108 Public Health-Abortion (Heartbeat Bill) UNFAVORABLE**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this extremely important bill. I am a retired Registered Nurse, and a member of the Episcopal Church.

I find it very confusing that the bill is titled a Heartbeat bill but then goes on to state that the purpose is to take away practice privileges concerning abortion care from a highly trained and expert group who give vital care to a special group of women in our community. This bill then proceeds to place restrictions on the procedure itself.

In 2022, the Legislature overrode a veto by then Governor Hogan and passed House Bill 0937 that gave Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants and Midwives the ability, with training, to do abortion care for pregnant women. This was to address the gaps in care especially among the poor and people of color. It would be a huge mistake to take this away from our healthcare system.

The Episcopal Church has stated that we will continue to advocate that “legislating abortions will not address the root of the problem. We therefore express our deep conviction that any proposed legislation on the part of national or state governments regarding abortions must take special care to see that the individual conscience is respected, and that the responsibility of individuals to reach informed decisions in this matter is acknowledged and honored as the position of this Church.”

The Diocese of Maryland requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on Bill HB0108.