



Testimony on HB 1055 - Favorable
HB 1055 - Commission on Nondiscrimination - Establishment

House Health and Government Operations Committee

March 10, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee,

Arnolia United Methodist Church (UMC) in Parkville, MD offers a **favorable** testimony in support of **HB 1055 - Commission on Nondiscrimination - Establishment**.

Arnolia UMC's mission is to follow Jesus, grow disciples, and serve others. Located in Parkville, MD we are connected to our community through the ministry of our Thrift store, our connection to the families of Oakleigh Elementary School, and other ministerial partnerships in the area. We also see the pursuit of justice as a spiritual discipline.

At its core, this bill is about upholding Maryland's values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The establishment of the Commission on Nondiscrimination will help all Marylanders in the face of federal cutbacks on discrimination laws.

As Methodists, through our Baptismal vows, we resist "evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." The federal reduction of discrimination protections is an unjust and evil practice. We see the establishment of this commission as a way to protect Marylanders as they face discrimination and hopefully help reduce discrimination in the area.

Arnolia UMC urges the committee to provide a favorable report on HB 1055.

Thank you for your time.

- Rev. David Yost