



**TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1271**

**HEALTH-ABORTION-ULTRASOUND AND WAIT TIME**

**UNFAVORABLE**

**TO: Chair Delegate Josaline 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:** February 27, 2025

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

Thank you for allowing me to write about such an important and I believe, damaging proposed bill. I offer my opinion as a former Registered Nurse and as a member of MEPPN.

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 detrimental to the woman's health. 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 on Bill HB1271.