



TESTIMONY - FAVORABLE

**SB 004 Charitable Organizations - Charitable Donation and
Tax-Exempt Status - Revocation (Keeping Charities
Nonpartisan Act of 2026)**

TO: Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair, Senator Cheryl C. Kagan,
Vice Chair, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

FROM: The Rev. Linda K. Boyd, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public
Policy Network (MEPPN)

DATE: February 11, 2026

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network offers favorable testimony in support of SB004. Our congregations serve people throughout Maryland.

If federal enforcement of the Johnson Amendment regarding the use of political speech by a nonprofit is weakened or eliminated, nonprofits could be pushed into political terrain they were never designed to occupy. Charitable organizations could become attractive targets for political operatives seeking platforms, influence, or legitimacy. The very institutions people turn to in moments of vulnerability could be pulled into partisan conflict.

SB004 ensures that if federal protections are rolled back, Maryland charities and religious organizations will still be governed by the same nonpartisan standards that have guided them for decades. The bill does not create new restrictions on charities or churches; it simply preserves existing ones. This bill incorporates the long-standing federal language and its well-established interpretation into Maryland law. Most important, this would only take effect if federal action renders the Johnson Amendment unenforceable. In other words, this is a contingency plan, not an expansion of government authority. We do not believe that partisan politics should be part of a faith institution's mission or purpose. For these reasons, the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network urges this committee to issue a favorable report on SB004.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA