



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0417

Public Health - Medetomidine and Xylazine Consumer Protection Act

FAVORABLE

TO: Chair Delegate Heather Bagnall, Vice Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and members of the House Health Committee.

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

DATE: February 10, 2026

Dear Chair Delegate Bagnall, Vice Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and all members of the House Health Committee.

As a retired registered nurse, I have been aware of the continuing problem of the misuse of drugs.

We need to continue our vigilance and keep drugs off the streets and out of the hands of those who are not using them for the intended purpose.

These drugs fit that category.

The Episcopal Church has long recognized that drug use and addiction are huge problems.

This statement addresses this.

The Episcopal Church urges all dioceses and parishes to encourage training, advocacy, and pastoral resources for individuals, families, and communities affected by opioid addiction and continue advocacy for the federal government to address this as a public health crisis, affirming that opioid use disorder is a disease.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) requests a

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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