



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0158

Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Maternal Health Monitoring Pilot Program

FAVORABLE

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

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

DATE: February 4, 2026

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison and members of the Health Committee.

I am a member of MEPPN, the MD Episcopal Public Policy Network. I am also a retired registered nurse.

The Episcopal Church has reaffirmed its prior commitment to ensure quality prenatal care is available for all to address concerns of increased rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, especially among low-income women and women of color. General Convention has voiced its support for diocesan advocacy efforts for women to have the right to safe and available natal healthcare to enable healthy pregnancies and overall maternal well-being.

It is critical to support women and practitioners in any way possible Hypertension and diabetes are 2 areas of major health concern.

Practitioners of Obstetric and post partum care must all be able to refer women as needed. This should include Nurse Practitioners, Certified Midwives and any licensed practitioner. I would ask that an amendment to add these professions to the list of providers to order the monitoring program.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a Favorable report