



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0049**  
Public Health - Abortion (Heartbeat Bill)

**UNFAVORABLE**

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

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

**DATE: March 19, 2026**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this extremely important bill.

I am a retired Registered Nurse, originally from Connecticut. I did not work in Women's Health, but I follow rulings closely and am member of the Episcopal Church.

I find it very confusing that the bill is titled a Heartbeat bill and then goes on to state that the purpose is to take away practice privileges concerning abortion care from a highly trained and expert group who give vital care to a special group of women in our community. It then went on to state restrictions on the procedure itself.

In 2022, the Legislature over-rode a veto by then Governor Hogan to pass the bill giving Nurse Practitioners, Physicians Assistants and Midwives the ability with training to do abortion care for pregnant women. This was to address the gaps in care especially among the poor and people of color. It would be a huge mistake to take this away from our health care system.

I am not certain about how the term fetal heartbeat is being used. A recognizable heart is not seen on ultrasound until about 20 weeks. Before that, it's noises that the machine picks up, but is not a functioning heart.

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 Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) requests an**  
**UNFAVORABLE report**

*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*