



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0202

Public Health - Social Isolation and Loneliness Pilot Grant Program -  
Establishment

**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 Cullison and all members of the House Health Committee**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of this bill.

I am a retired registered nurse who worked for many years in home health care. Many, if not most of my patients were elderly or had chronic illness of any age. Those who were alone without family support did not do nearly as well long term as those with some type of support. Social isolation and loneliness are huge factors in anyone's well being.

Targeting this group will help our Community by helping to maintain health, interactions will allow people to learn where to seek help as needed and hopefully be able to add to our community health and well being. We all win with this.

I am a member of the Episcopal Church. In it's resolutions, the Church addresses mental health, which would include loneliness.

The Church encourages Congress to enact legislation on the following package of policies that would serve to promote equity and to reduce differences in mental health outcomes: address implicit bias and unconscious bias in mental health diagnostics and treatment; address data challenges; address Social Determinants of Health; and invest in mental healthcare professional diversity; better mental healthcare treatment available.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) requests a

**FAVORABLE** 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