



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

HB 003– Support

Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products-Prohibition

Economic Matters Committee

Health and Government Operations

2/06/2020

Good afternoon Chairman Davis, Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Dumais, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Economic Matters and Health and Government Operations Committees.

My Name is Rev. Linda Boyd and I am representing the Maryland Episcopal Diocese. The Diocese represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB 003.

HB 003 is an Emergency Bill that details comprehensive legislation to prohibit the manufacture, shipping, importing or selling into or within Maryland any flavored tobacco products.

Currently six states have now banned the sale of flavored e-cigarette products. In addition to state action, in 2019 the FDA issued a policy specifically designed to limit the sale of fruity and kid-friendly vaping products.

Recent surveys in Maryland indicate that more than 35% of high school students say they have tried vaping. If adopted HB 003 would specifically add a definition of “Flavored Tobacco Product” to the existing State Code. Flavored tobacco is dangerous because it gives children the misleading impression that it is safe for them to use.

We urge a favorable report.