



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 11, 2022

House Bill 1369

Public Health – Abortion – Standards & Reporting

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Position: Support

The Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

HB 1369 would alter the criteria related to the State's authority to interfere with a decision of a woman to terminate a pregnancy; and would prohibit a physician from performing an abortion under certain circumstances.

HB 1369 attempts to secure additional protection for unborn children, namely, those whose hearts have begun to beat. By calling a halt to the intentional taking of innocent human lives with beating hearts, the prohibition section of the bill calls upon the courts to allow states to provide a level of protection for unborn children against abortion that is more consistent with basic human dignity. Woman and their children deserve protection and respect and this legislation is a positive step in that direction.

It is for these reasons that the Maryland Catholic Conference respectfully urges a favorable report for HB 1369. Thank you for your consideration.