



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 11, 2022

House Bill 1321

Health – Abortion – Reporting Requirement

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 1321 would require abortions to be included annually in Maryland’s Vital Statistic Report, expanding applicable data as it pertains to women’s health as well as prenatal and maternal risk factors. Without examining the full scope of the problem, a solution cannot be presented and the state cannot provide the resources to better the health of women and their families.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “47 states require mandatory abortion reporting” and notes, “*abortion reporting is important to define characteristics of women at high-risk for unintended pregnancy, maternal mortality, pre-term delivery, and labor complications.*” House Bill 1321 would allow for Maryland to compile state-wide data on health services advancing the state of medical knowledge concerning maternal and fetal health. Abortion and pregnancy rates can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of family planning programs and programs for preventing unintended pregnancies.

A complete statistical profile of pregnancy is very useful to promote life in our state. It is for these reasons that the Conference asks for a favorable report for House Bill 1321. Thank you for your consideration.

