



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**March 11, 2022**

**House Bill 1139**

**Public Funds – Prohibition on Expenditures for Abortion (Abortion Subsidy Prohibition Act)**

**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 1139 seeks to accomplish many objectives related to the prohibition of expenditures for abortion including any scientific or laboratory research or other kinds of investigation conducted on fetal tissue obtained from an abortion.

The innocent lives taken by abortion deserve the same respect as that of any other person. As a State we have no authority to treat innocent abortion victims as a commodity that can be foraged for body parts and tissue to be used in research. It is unethical to promote and/or subsidize research that can lead to legitimizing the violence of abortion. Researchers have demonstrated that we can do effective scientific research and develop effectual clinical treatments without harvesting tissue from aborted babies. It is deeply offensive to Marylanders for our tax dollars to be used for research that collaborates with an industry built on the taking of innocent lives. It would be ideal for the State of Maryland to fund research that does not rely upon body parts taken from innocent children killed through abortion.

It is for these reasons that the Maryland Catholic Conference respectfully urges a favorable report for HB 1139. Thank you for your consideration.