



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB087

Criminal Law - Death Penalty

OPPOSE

February 13, 2024

TO: Hon. Luke Clippinger, Chair, Hon. J. Sandy Bartlett, Vice Chair and the members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd., Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Maryland

Since 1958, the Episcopal Church at large has been against the death penalty. In, 1991, the 70th National Convention stated the following:

Resolved, That this 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church reaffirm the position taken in opposition to capital punishment by the 1958, 1969, and 1979 General Conventions; and be it further...

Resolved, That this 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church support state and local initiatives to establish a range of community sanctions and services offering alternatives to incarceration and reducing recidivism; and be it further...

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop's Open Statement on Capital Punishment and this resolution be sent to the President, the Attorney General, and every member of the Senate and Congress of the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That this 70th General Convention of the Episcopal Church urge the provinces, dioceses, parishes, missions, and individual members of this Church to engage in serious study on the subject of capital punishment and work actively to abolish the death penalty in their states.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland follows the position of the National Church. The sixth commandment states "Thou shalt not kill." We believe that each person is a child of God and we follow the 6th commandment instructing us not to kill.

We request an unfavorable report.