



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Testimony Prepared for the
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
and
Budget & Taxation Committees
on
Senate Bill 1000
February 17, 2020
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairmen and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to advocate equitable funding of education excellence for students in every subdivision of our State. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod. We are a regional judicatory of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together with our colleagues of the West Virginia-Western Maryland and the Metropolitan Washington, DC synods we are a faith community of congregations located everywhere in the State of Maryland.

Our faith community calls upon its members to *advocate for equitable access to an excellent education for all children and youth and...support early childhood education... public schools, colleges, and universities...* (and to advocate) *for policies that provide adequate resources and their fair distribution for...educational institutions* ("Education," ELCA, 2007, pg.63).

The Delaware-Maryland Synod in its 2018 Assembly voted to affirm that commitment and support findings and recommendations from the Kirwan Commission, and reaffirm our commitment to quality education equitably distributed across Maryland, for all its students.

Thornton provided a formula that aspired to funding equity almost two decades ago. What was learned through its tenure is that equity remains a distinct challenge owing to injustice in economic life, conditions outside the effect of State policy, vicissitudes in public sentiment, and inequities in public power.

Our view is that education is a public good because it rewards the public when fairly distributed.

Experience through Thornton demonstrates the State needs to do better with:

- Funding equity across its subdivisions
- Collapsing gaps in resource distributions
- Improving education outcomes
- Investing in the public education workforce,
- Attending to the physical assets of the State's education enterprise, and
- Guarding this policy project against erosions by immaterial power negotiations

Those are values that advance additional real and beneficial public goods such as justice, enlargement of arts, skills and sciences, social productivity, quality and equality of common life, and acumen needed for civic engagement. The social teaching on education in our faith community values those benefits as well. We therefore support Senate Bill 1000 and urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Testimony Prepared for the
Appropriation and Ways & Means Committees
on
House Bill 1300
February 17, 2020
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chairs and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to advocate equitable funding of education excellence for students in every subdivision of our State. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod. We are a regional judicatory of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together with our colleagues of the West Virginia-Western Maryland and the Metropolitan Washington, DC synods we are a faith community of congregations located everywhere in the State of Maryland.

Our faith community calls upon its members to *advocate for equitable access to an excellent education for all children and youth and...support early childhood education... public schools, colleges, and universities...* (and to advocate) *for policies that provide adequate resources and their fair distribution for...educational institutions* ("Education," ELCA, 2007, pg.63).

The Delaware-Maryland Synod in its 2018 Assembly voted to affirm that commitment and support findings and recommendations from the Kirwan Commission, and reaffirm our commitment to quality education equitably distributed across Maryland, for all its students.

Thornton provided a formula that aspired to funding equity almost two decades ago. What was learned through its tenure is that equity remains a distinct challenge owing to injustice in economic life, conditions outside the effect of State policy, vicissitudes in public sentiment, and inequities in public power.

Our view is that education is a public good because it rewards the public when fairly distributed.

Experience through Thornton demonstrates the State needs to do better with:

- Funding equity across its subdivisions
- Collapsing gaps in resource distributions
- Improving education outcomes
- Investing in the public education workforce,
- Attending to the physical assets of the State's education enterprise, and
- Guarding this policy project against erosions by immaterial power negotiations

Those are values that advance additional real and beneficial public goods such as justice, enlargement of arts, skills and sciences, social productivity, quality and equality of common life, and acumen needed for civic engagement. The social teaching on education in our faith community values those benefits as well. We therefore support House Bill 1300 and urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson