



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 139
January 30, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about adequate, affordable housing and the rights of tenants. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community with three synods in every part of Maryland.

Access to housing has been a stated concern of our community since 1999 (*Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, ELCA). The bundle of available supports to make appropriate housing accessible should count toward affordability. Utility costs are housing costs and assistance for utility service should be acceptable as housing payment.

We ask a favorable report.

Lee Hudson