



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Judicial Proceedings Committee
on
Senate Bill 1031
March 7, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support the protection of Maryland children and foster their health and growth. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a faith community with three synods in every part of our State.

We believe that health and safety are matters of public interest, especially when considering those who are vulnerable and without agency. Policies about lead in housing affect children first and most.

Senate Bill 1031 revises the statute of limitations for civil actions concerning lead poisoning and provides a disincentive for keeping leaded housing in the inventory. We observe that as a practical matter this seems necessary. The effects of lead poisoning in children take time to emerge and are typically observed as developmental issues. A short limitation window encourages keeping lead hazard in the market, which will result in more poisoning. Not the public health outcome the State should support.

Lead poisoning is essentially a lifetime condition. Discouraging it would seem to be required public health and safety policy in the State. So, we ask you favorable report on this bill.

Lee Hudson