



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Finance Committee
on
Senate Bill 227
January 24, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of access to health care in Maryland. 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 congregations in every region of our State.

Our community has advocated for access to appropriate, adequate, and affordable health care for all people in the United States since 2003.

We support **Senate Bill 227** because it may keep a cohort of medically insured Marylanders covered. This bill essentially aligns Maryland regulation of carriers with a federal provision for cancellation of healthcare policies due to non-payment.

Cancellations are currently possible for rather minor arrearages. Providing time for accounts to settle acceptably may keep more of the insured covered, and Maryland's uninsured fewer.

We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson