



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

Testimony prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 8
February 15, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support humane work environments in Maryland. 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.

Our community's statement on economic life ("Sustainable, Sufficient Livelihood for All," 1999) calls on us to advocate for provision of "adequate pension and health benefits, safe and healthy work conditions, sufficient periods of rest, vacation, and sabbatical, and **family-friendly** work schedules." We have supported family medical leave at the federal level and previously have advocated appropriate family-related medical leave in Maryland.

House Bill 8 proposes a new program in the Maryland Department of Labor that would insure workers' medical leave for up to twelve weeks. Employers, employees, and the self-employed would all contribute to such an insurance fund, spreading obligation across Maryland's work context.

We support a plan that establishes and administers a credible medical-family leave policy in Maryland and believe it will contribute to a productive work environment. We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson