



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 928
February 22, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about human rights and fair housing. 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 the State.

Our global communion has addressed human movement since 1939 with the international service organization, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, at 700 Light Street in Baltimore. This organization assists and sponsors those without a permanent home, wherever they may be from, to wherever they may come to reside.

Maryland is publicly committed to fair housing policies as a human right. Its stated policy is, *to provide for fair housing throughout the State to all, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or source of income.* Since immigrants and the stateless are already among Maryland's residents we support adding *citizenship and immigration status* to this list of proscribed discriminations.

Our understanding of human rights, including the rights of those who are stateless, informs our support of **House Bill 928**, and we ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson