



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

Testimony prepared for the
Finance Committee
on
Senate Bill 395
February 9, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to advocate for access to health care in our State. 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 Maryland.

My faith community has supported many policies and legislative instruments that have made Maryland one of the top five States in the nation for expanded access to health care. **Senate Bill 395** will continue one of them.

The element of finance for Maryland's Individual Market addressed with Senate Bill 395 has proven to be exceptionally beneficial. It has kept that market open and stable. It has qualified Maryland to access federal funds to stabilize its market. And it has enabled incremental expansion of access more recently to under- and uninsured demographics. Those modest expansions address a persistent racial disparity in health care and health outcomes, a particular interest of our community.

We appreciate the work of this Committee, and Governor Hogan's administration support of access to health care. Senate Bill 395 will extend a policy that has been successful for Maryland and its citizens.

We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson