



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Appropriations Committee**  
on  
**Senate Bill 239**  
March 28, 2023  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee thank you for this opportunity to speak for human rights. 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 judicatories in every part of our State.

Our community affirms basic human rights for all people. And we hold that among these is the right to make domestic arrangements, dispose of property, and share medical decision-making and visitation within those arrangements. The State of Maryland has essentially concurred.

**Senate Bill 239** is a modest measure to ensure those existing rights within the State's Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program. The State has already defined domestic partnerships for the purpose of securing other rights. Legislation to clarify such rights for the State's workforce is warranted.

We encourage your favorable report.

Lee Hudson