



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Finance Committee
On
Senate Bill 202
February 8, 2023
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify for affordable medical treatment by lowering the cost of prescription medications. My name is Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a faith community with three judicatories across the State.

Our community advocates for access to appropriate, adequate and affordable health care for all people in the United States (*Caring for Health*, ELCA, 2003). We include medical treatment in “appropriate and adequate care,” and therefore in any assessment of “affordable.”

We were among the advocates for the passage of the 2019 bill establishing the Prescription Drug Affordability Board in Maryland to monitor and address cost for pharmaceuticals under the State’s Medicaid program. Drug cost monitoring and containment, of course, will benefit all medical clients within the Maryland health care market.

Because of delays in implementing the Affordability Board, its mission needs some technical revision to achieve its purpose. As one of the many voices advocating for this legislation in 2019, we support **Senate Bill 202** so that the work of making medicines work by making them affordable can be done. We ask your favorable report for this emergency bill.

Lee Hudson