



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Health and Government Operations Committee
on
House Bill 49
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify for equity, racial justice and the necessity for public policy that aspires to “all are created equal.” 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 in three judicatories across our State.

Equality is a spiritual thing that faith traditions find in their belief that human life is of divine origin—a common state of universal extent. One needn't have a religious practice to observe that all life is one.

The ELCA is attempting to assume responsibility for stewarding our shared resources toward institutional justice (ELCA social policy resolution, August 2016). Our community committed to sufficient livelihood for all in 1999 in its teaching document, “Economic Life.”

We recognize that ours is not a post-racial society. Current social and economic inequities occur in racial demographics. Resurgent (and armed) racialized public expression is being authorized by public officials. Racial subjugation and public segregation historically have been imbedded in United States law, case and code. Inequity as policy and disparity as outcome have been, and often remain, the real social contract. It will take more than rhetoric and litigation to establish equality of circumstance and outcome in our society.

We support **House Bill 49** and its proposal to survey the effects of racial inequality on citizens of African descent in Maryland because its goal is to identify and amend those effects. We therefore encourage a favorable report.

Lee Hudson