



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

Testimony prepared for the
Judicial Proceedings Committee
on
Senate Bill 1
February 7, 2023
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of public safety. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a faith community scattered across our State from Red House to Ocean City.

Our community has repeatedly stated with several decisions and communications that adequate regulation of firearms is an essential for public security and safety. In 1993 we said, "*...(we) call upon all of our congregations, synods, and appropriate agencies to work for the passage and strict enforcement of local, state, and national legislation as appropriate, that rigidly controls the manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, purchase, transfer, receipt, possession or transportation weapons of various types.* Typically, regulation policy for weapons is well below the necessary according to the standard advocated by our community. We have supported many pieces of Maryland legislation to properly register, secure and control weapons.

Senate Bill 1 seeks to regulate weapons by restricting the presence of weapons where the public may not want them; or where they present a public risk or nuisance; or where weapons are categorically inappropriate. The movement to make possession of weapons of almost any kind and lethality, in any place, at any time, has proven to be an existential threat to both life and liberty among us. We are opponents of that movement's goals. **Senate Bill 1** is an appropriate public safety instrument, and we endorse it and implore your favorable report.

Lee Hudson