



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

Testimony prepared for the
Judiciary Committee
on
House Bill 824
February 22, 2023
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the public safety. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Our faith community has stated in several of its decisions and communications that adequate regulation of firearms is an essential function of public authority for the sake of public safety: *(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 of handguns, assault weapons, and assault-like weapons and their parts, excluding rifles and shotguns used for hunting and sporting purposes, for use other than law enforcement and military purposes.* Typically, regulation of weapons in the U.S. is below the necessary by the standard our community has hoped and worked for.

House Bill 824 would strengthen the permitting and possession of weapons regulations advocated by many Maryland citizens and public organizations for many years. Permitting carry, transport, and possession of weapons is well-established in law and appropriate for public safety. We therefore urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson