



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 136
January 24, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support the dignity of human effort by acknowledging a human right within State law. 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 supports the human rights of workers in the interest of fair wages and safe and just work conditions. A 2017 message among us concerning human rights as principle and instrument, affirmed a 1999 ELCA statement about justice in the *oikos*, the economy.

Workers do have rights in Maryland and it should not be permissible that those rights be abridged or eliminated by employers dissenting from them.

For those reasons we support **House Bill 136** ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson