



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Economic Matters Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 554**  
February 8, 2024  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to support the dignity of human effort by acknowledging the human right to adequate wages for work. 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 has advocated for a sufficient livelihood since 1999 (“Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood”, ELCA). A 2017 message among us concerning human rights as principle and instrument, affirmed a 1999 ELCA statement about justice in the *oikos*, the economy. We support both a principle and policies that contemplate “sufficient” in the real economy.

For those reasons we support **House Bill 554** to keep Maryland’s current prevailing wage standards in force among the State’s utility operations. We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson