



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

Testimony prepared for the
Ways and Means Committee
on
House Bill 66
February 1, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify for affordable housing that will benefit multiple goals of public good in our State. 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 synods in every part of Maryland.

Scarce affordable housing is well documented everywhere in our nation and State. Our faith community has represented its concerns about that aspect of public wellbeing in many sessions of the Maryland General Assembly.

Making housing more affordable will serve numerous goals of public good in Maryland. A short list may include, Smart Growth toward sustainable land use, public support for housing equity where systemic disinvestment has withered it, promotion of live-near-your-work to reduce demand on public transportation; and, not least, advancing goals for equitable Maryland public education advanced in the Blueprint.

House Bill 66 authorizes public officials of Maryland subdivisions to establish a property tax credit in their jurisdictions for a primary dwelling of State educators. This may increase the stock of affordable housing in the built environment, expand school systems qualified teachers consider for employment, and serve land use appropriate to healthy urbanity. We encourage your favorable consideration and support.

Lee Hudson