



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

Testimony prepared for the
Budget and Taxation Committee
on
Senate Bill 859
March 5, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of sufficient livelihood all. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; a faith community with three synods in every part of the Maryland.

Progressive taxation was advocated by our community in “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All” (ELCA, 1999) because it is a marker for justice in the *oikumene*, the economy of the community household.

Maryland is a wealthy state with fairly regressive taxing. Those two effects are typically not accidents. **Senate Bill 859** would establish more tiered, that is, progressive taxing so that the benefits of Maryland’s productive economy would result in less precarity from inequality.

We urge a favorable report.

Lee Hudson