



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 1020
February 18, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak for access to health care in Maryland. 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 congregations in every region of our State.

Our community has advocated for access to appropriate, adequate, and affordable health care for all people in the United States and its territories since 2003.

Affordable health care remains an elusive policy goal, despite all that Maryland and a clutch of its state colleagues have done to advance access. Medical debt is common enough in the public context that it is still a leading cause of bankruptcy.

House Bill 1020 will lower the risks from debt-by-illness by preventing it from cascading into food, housing, and other necessities of living in this society. That being ill should equate to homelessness, for example, strikes us as exactly the reason we need to remain committed to access for all people.

We regard this bill as being necessary for a humane and just society. We urge your favorable report for **House Bill 1020**.

Lee Hudson