



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

Testimony prepared for the
Judicial Proceedings Committee
on
Senate Bill 509
February 7, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of public safety. 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 judicatories across our State.

Our community has stated support for adequate weapons regulation as an essential for public safety. Typically, regulation policy for weapons is well below the necessary according to the standard advocated by our community. We have supported many pieces of Maryland legislation to adequately regulate weapons in the community.

Senate Bill 509 is a reasonable extension of so-called “red flag” laws, which we have supported and which public reporting indicates can have their intended effect; namely to separate lethal weaponry from credible behavioral health risk (see, e.g., “The Journalist’s Resource” November 30, 2022 article aggregating information from informed studies). Court-ordered treatment in response to behavioral incidents and issues is a good place to put a red flag.

Reducing risks to self and others ought to include limiting access to weaponry. Public safety needs to be restored to a prominence it once had acquired in law and policy. We urge a favorable report.

Lee Hudson