



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Judiciary Committee
on
House Bill 403
March 5, 2025
Position: **Unfavorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about public safety and human rights. 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 State.

Our global communion has addressed human movement since 1939 with an international service organization, Global Refuge located at 700 Light Street in Baltimore. This organization assists and sponsors those without a permanent home, wherever they are and wherever they may come to reside. It is our community's position that being stateless is not a crime.

House Bill 387 seems to circumvent existing State and federal law. Those in State custody, and serving sentences following conviction, are already in legal detention. Moreover, a lawful judicial warrant procedure is available to ICE. The need for mixing jurisdictional authorities is vague, duplicative, and—if the subject be incarcerated—unnecessary. It certainly will not advance public safety objectives. State criminal procedure should be sufficient as it addresses crimes, punishments, with authorized due processes.

We trust the Committee will reject this bill.

Lee Hudson