



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Ways and Means Committee
on
Senate Bill 663
March 20, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify about sufficient and sustainable livelihood. 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 community teaches that adequate income, public support for sufficient livelihood, and progressive taxation are benchmarks for just public policy ["Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," ELCA, 1999].

Our community has advocated for the Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit and various initiatives for its expansion across decades of General Assembly session. We therefore urge making those eligible aware of it. **Senate Bill 663** will provide an additional, and necessary, outreach instrument to those eligible for EITC by adding electronic notification.

EITC is an effective, efficient, and to date bipartisan, instrument for lifting people from extreme poverty; and for making work worth it. Our community supports it at the federal level and across the states.

There may be Maryland workers eligible for EITC who don't receive it. So, we encourage equity and sufficiency in Maryland by capturing all the benefit available to those eligible and living in precarity. We, therefore, urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson