



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

Testimony prepared for the  
**Ways and Means Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 708**  
February 13, 2025  
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of sufficient livelihood for 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 judicatories located in every Maryland region.

Our community teaches that adequate income, public support for sufficient livelihood, and appropriately progressive taxation are benchmarks for a just public policy ["Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," ELCA, 1999]. Under that position we have supported Maryland's earned income tax credit and its expansion for several decades.

**House Bill 708** adds an increment of eligibility to a bipartisan policy that has raised low-income individuals above statistical poverty. That outcome speaks for itself in our community. Indexing thresholds to expand EITC eligibility to childless individuals and accounting for inflationary benefit deterioration is a fair way to keep a floor under the living of low wage working people.

We ask your concurrence with a favorable report.

Lee Hudson