



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

Testimony Prepared for the
Budget and Taxation Committee
on
House Bill 252
March 29, 2022
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 appropriately progressive taxation are benchmarks for a 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. We therefore urge making those eligible aware of it. **House Bill 252** will provide an outreach instrument to the eligible by means of tax return preparation. This approach has worked well in Maryland for program notification of several State benefits.

There are still workers eligible for the EITC who don't receive it. The EITC is one of the most effective and efficient tools for raising income, lifting people out of poverty, and making work worth it. Traditionally, it has been a non-partisan consensus policy. Our community supports it at the federal level and across the states.

We want to encourage equity and sufficiency by capturing all the benefit and support available through the EITC for hard working, modest income Maryland households. We ask your favorable report.

Lee Hudson