



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

Testimony Prepared for the  
**Health and Government Operations Committee**  
on  
**House Bill 953**  
February 22, 2024  
Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak for access to health care in Maryland. 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 congregations in every region of our State.

Our community has advocated for access to appropriate and adequate health care for all people in the United States since 2003.

We supported *House Bill 780* of 2021, a pilot that increased subsidies for young adults on the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Because federal support for states' Medicaid programs during covid has now lapsed, and because of the success of Maryland's health benefit exchange, the estimated amount of needed subsidy support for young adults is slightly short. **House Bill 953** is an emergency bill to close the gap.

Having been supporters of this MHBE project we are happy to support this bill. We ask your favorable report to keep an important and successful health care access program going.

Lee Hudson