

Santo A. Grande, Ed.D.
House Appropriations Committee
HB1423

March 3, 2020
1:00pm

My name is Santo Grande. I am the President/CEO of Delmarva Community Services, Inc., a non-profit organization providing services in the Mid Eastern Shore of the State. We are also the sub-contractor for Senior Services in Dorchester County through the MAC Triple AAA, Area Agency on Aging.

Forty five days prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2019 we were notified of a significant cut in funding for Fiscal 2020. Our Senior Nutrition funds were cut from \$46,228 to \$18,523, a 60% reduction and Maryland Senior Information office was cut from \$10,931 to \$7,737 a 29% reduction.

As you can see, these cuts could only be harmful; there is no other way to put this. The loss in meals is equivalent to losing funding for 9000 meals. This is a significant humanitarian loss. This meal to many seniors is their only meal of the day.

Tell me who I should cut? Do I cut the shut-in who lives on an Island 55 miles from Cambridge or the 92 year old woman who lives alone with no family, friend or neighbors? The short notice of the funding cut created an **EMERGENCY**.

We had to avert this crisis by going cap-in-hand to feed the most vulnerable elderly, rural individuals on the Eastern Shore.

The timing of these cuts after session prevented us from being able to engage, you our representative. Our County budget had been submitted. A crisis should not be the new normal especially in the State of Maryland.

Thank you.