



## HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

### TESTIMONY

Submitted by  
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**HB 1175 – Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program**

**Position: Support**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges thanks Delegate Davis for introducing HB 1175 that brings the issue of food insecurity on our campuses to the attention of the General Assembly. We support this legislation that provides an annual grant of \$310,000 to Maryland Higher Education Commission to allocate funding to a public institution of higher education that is designated as a hunger-free campus.

Most community college students are not recent high school graduates who live in a dormitory, nor are they supported by parents. Roughly 74 percent of our student body are nontraditional students, meaning that they fit one of six criteria: they attend college part-time, are employed full-time, are financially independent, must provide for dependents, are a single parent, or do not have a high school diploma. Nearly 24 percent of students are considered highly nontraditional (they fit four or more of the criteria). Given these challenges, many students find it difficult to support themselves while also paying for college.

This legislation will encourage all institutions to provide hunger-free campuses and strengthen those programs that may already be in existence. We ask that the Committee give this legislation a favorable report.