



HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
House Bill 1175
Higher Education – Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program
March 5, 2020
Favorable

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of on House Bill 1175. Bowie State University supports House Bill 1175, which would address issues surrounding student hunger and food insecurity on university campuses in Maryland. It is clear that hunger and food insecurity needs often begin with the P -12 student population. Those needs do not end at high school graduation and in fact may intensify as students leave home to attend college.

Bowie State University recently opened a pantry and nutrition lounge on campus in partnership with Food Lion. This is one of many steps we have taken to address the holistic needs of our students. The Bowie State Nutrition Lounge provides a place for students, especially commuters, to relax, study and enjoy healthy foods. The university is collaborating with Capital Area Food Bank and a local Food Lion store to ensure the lounge is stocked regularly and abides by strict food safety standards. House Bill 1175 would provide the administrative support to monitor and deploy resources across campuses to better assist students in need.

Bowie State University is committed to continuing and growing the Nutrition Lounge. House Bill 1175 is critical to addressing student hunger and leveraging more resources to address these needs on BSU's campus. Bowie State University is fortunate to be able to leverage resources to address student hunger and food insecurity. More campuses should be able to share 'best practices' and institute systemic and targeted strategies to help students focus on their academics and not be burdened by food insecurity. House Bill 1175 will strengthen student success by removing nutritional barriers to educational attainment.

Thank you for your efforts to address this important issue our our students and students across Maryland. We urge a favorable report for HB 1175.