



Swipe Out Hunger  
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SwipeHunger.org

**STUDENT HUNGER IS REAL. WE CAN HELP END IT.**

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Chair of the House Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building Room 121  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SUPPORT HB 1175 (Davis) — Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program

Dear Chair McIntosh and Committee Members,

On behalf of Swipe Out Hunger, I am writing in support of House Bill 1175. Our organization is in deep appreciation to your office for your introduction of this important measure which would play an essential and urgent role in addressing hunger amongst the hard working college students of Maryland by increasing access to SNAP, collecting critical data, distributing excess meal swipes and more.

Since 2010, Swipe Out Hunger has served as the leading voice on college student hunger. In this time, we've understood the negative impact a lack of food, shelter and mental health resources play on a student's ability to function, nevertheless succeed in school. We have also seen that it is imperative for the state to lead the way by providing the funding and policy support necessary for universities and colleges to be able to adequately respond. California and New Jersey have successfully passed and implemented similar bills and we are thrilled to see the Hunger Free Campus Grant Program be introduced to the floor of the Maryland Legislature.

HB 1175 is thoughtfully crafted, encompassing federal funding from SNAP, leveraging existing campus resources through its meal swipe redistribution and HB 1175's focus on people as seen in the expectation to create a stakeholder working group. Over 110 universities in the US have successfully adopted meal swipe redistribution program. Swipe Out Hunger is happy to provide implementation support to four year institutions considering participating in the grant program, specifically the meal swipe donation program which our organization promotes.

HB 1175 provides the necessary roadmap and resources for campuses to respond to the crisis of college student hunger.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Sumekh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Rachel Sumekh  
Founder and CEO  
Swipe Out Hunger