



Office of the President

**Morgan State University Testimony
Dr. David Wilson, President**

Senate Bill 562 (*Senator Guzzone*)
Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program – Establishment
Committee: Finance Committee
March 10, 2023

Favorable

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee. We, at Morgan, thank you for the opportunity to share our position on Senate Bill 562. The summary of the Bill states the following: *Establishing the Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program in the Department of Human Services; requiring the Department to give priority to nonprofit entities in the State that conduct assessments, with ongoing data collection to track success, and can demonstrate strong community involvement and partnerships, consistent stakeholder engagement, sustainability with diverse funding streams, innovation, and a focus on underserved communities; and authorizing the Governor to include in the annual budget bill up to \$3,000,000 for the Program.*

Morgan State University is the premier public urban research university in Maryland, known for its excellence in teaching, intensive research, effective public service and community engagement. Morgan prepares diverse and competitive graduates for success in a global interdependent society.

Morgan State supports Senate Bill 562.

A Morgan survey conducted by the Office of Student Affairs in 2017 revealed that a significant percentage of Morgan's students were already affected by food and/or housing insecurities prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to these insecurities, Morgan launched The Food Resource Center (FRC) in 2018 and—through food collection distribution and education—began supporting students who were struggling with basic needs.

At Morgan, we value the ability to form strong internal and external partnerships in
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providing food support. Such partnerships allow us to provide vital resources to our students and the community as we continue to demonstrate that we are a community that cares.

With this stated, we support Senate Bill 562, which will allow food supports around the state to move forward this important work for Marylanders.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. David K. Wilson
President, Morgan State University