



Ashley Woolard, Staff Attorney
Public Justice Center
201 North Charles Street, Suite 1200
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-625-9409, ext. 224
woolarda@publicjustice.org

SB 35
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement
Hearing of the House Appropriations Committee
March 26, 2024
1:00 PM

FAVORABLE

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a not-for-profit civil rights and anti-poverty legal services organization which seeks to advance social justice, economic and racial equity, and fundamental human rights in Maryland. Our Health and Benefits Equity Project advocates to protect and expand access to healthcare and safety net services for Marylanders struggling to make ends meet. We support policies and practices that are designed to eliminate economic and racial inequities and enable every Marylander to attain their highest level of health. **PJC supports SB 35.** As amended, the bill would repeal the minimum age that a member of a household must be for eligibility for the State-provided supplemental benefit under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). It would also increase the amount of supplemental benefit that the State must provide from \$40 to \$50.

PJC supports raising the SNAP benefit for all eligible households regardless of age as hunger is experienced by 1 in 10 Marylanders and 1 in 8 children.¹ In fact, 37.1% of households receiving SNAP benefits in Maryland have children.² SB 35, if passed, would raise SNAP to a level that is more responsive to rising food costs and would improve the health and wellbeing of all Marylanders receiving SNAP.

For these reasons, the Public Justice Center urges the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for **SB 35**. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Woolard at WoolardA@publicjustice.org or (410) 625-9409 ext. 224.

¹ Feeding America, *Hunger in Maryland* (last visited February 16, 2024), <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/maryland#:~:text=In%20Maryland%2C%20600%2C970%20people%20are,of%20them%20164%2C160%20are%20children.&text=face%20hunger.,in%208%20children%20face%20hunger.>

² *Id.*

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