

JEFFRIE E. LONG, JR.
Legislative District 27B
Calvert and Prince George's Counties

Environment and Transportation
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 225
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3398 · 301-858-3398
800-492-7122 Ext. 3398
jeffrie.long@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 16, 2024

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Colleagues,

HB718 aims to enhance the well-being of our senior citizens by ensuring access to adequate nutrition through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

We must prioritize the welfare of all our citizens, especially those who have contributed so much to our communities and society over the years. HB718 addresses a critical issue facing many seniors in our state - the challenge of accessing nutritious food on a limited income.

The proposed legislation seeks to provide a much-needed benefit of \$40 under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to households aged 65 and older with a gross annual household income not exceeding \$50,000. This measure acknowledges the unique financial constraints faced by our elderly population and seeks to alleviate their burden by ensuring they have access to essential nutritional support.

Ensuring that our seniors have access to an adequate and nutritious diet is not only a matter of basic human dignity but also essential for promoting their health and well-being. Proper nutrition is linked to better health outcomes and can help prevent or manage chronic diseases that disproportionately affect older adults.

By providing additional support through SNAP, we can help mitigate the risk of food insecurity among our senior population, enabling them to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives. Investing in programs that support the nutritional needs of our seniors ultimately benefits our entire community.

I urge the members of the Appropriations Committee to support HB718 and take decisive action to ensure that our seniors have the resources they need to access nutritious food. By passing this legislation, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the dignity and welfare of all Maryland residents, regardless of age or income.

Thank you, and I ask for a favorable report on HB718.