



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0183
Food Supplement Program
(Summer SNAP for Children Act)**

Bill Sponsor: Chair, Appropriations Committee

Committee: Appropriations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0183 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition believes food security is a basic human right. While other states are rejecting summer food aid for children, HB0183 would expand the supplements Maryland provides by \$4.8 million.

MLC strongly supports SNAP because it helps ensure that low-income residents have more and healthier food to eat. Moreover, SNAP allows family resources to be redirected to other priorities such as health care. The summer food benefits program helps children have consistent access to nutrition when school is out.

An investment of \$4.8 million for this is comparatively minor compared to the payback of this investment. Mark Rank, a Professor of Social Welfare at Washington University, "It is estimated that for every dollar spent on reducing childhood poverty, the country would save at least \$7 with respect to the economic costs of poverty."

For these reasons, we believe the Summer SNAP for Children Act has benefits for children, their families, and all Marylanders.

MLC supports this bill and recommends a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.