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Written Testimony

Background: Senate Bill 35 (SB35) repeals the minimum age of a household member for state supplemental SNAP eligibility. It also increases the state supplement from \$40 to \$95 a month.

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 Amit Women
 Association of Reform Zionists of America
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 Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
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 Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
 Shomrei Emunah Congregation
 Suburban Orthodox Congregation
 Temple Beth Shalom
 Temple Isaiah
 Zionist Organization of America
 Baltimore District

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Federation of Baltimore and its agencies, including Jewish Community Services, which helps low-income individuals in need. We respectfully urge the Committee to support SB35. Currently the state SNAP minimum benefit is \$40 a month for households with a member at least 62 years old. This is just over a \$1 a day. This amount is grossly inadequate for individuals and families to access the vital nutrition needed to live a healthy life. SB35 will reduce food insecurity and combat hunger among all low-income individuals, not just those with household members at least 62 years old. By removing the age barrier households with young families would be able to benefit more from SNAP. Further, SNAP helps generate local economic activity since every \$1 in SNAP benefits generates \$1.85 for the local economy.

For these reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB35

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.