

SB0035\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
January 16, 2023

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
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**TESTIMONY ON SB#0035 - FAVORABLE**  
**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement**

**TO:** Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0035, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement.**

The rise in food costs has created significant difficulties for Marylanders to provide food for themselves and their families. The average price of food in the United States increased 2.7% in the 12 months ended December, after posting an annual increase of 2.9% in November, according to the latest inflation data published Jan. 11, 2024, by the U.S. Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics ([BLS](#)). As recently as August 2022, the rate of inflation for food at 11.4% was the highest since May 1979.

My Jewish faith calls on me at every Passover seder “... Jews around the world open the re-telling of the story by declaring: *ha lahma anya*, which includes the line “All who are hungry, come and eat!”. Our tradition teaches us to care for the poor and the orphan and the widow amongst us in the pursuit of justice.

This bill makes the moral statement that helping to feed others in our society by ensuring the poor do not go hungry, regardless of their age or the ages of persons in the household, is a value Maryland respects and encourages. Food insecurity can have dire consequences on the health of those suffering from it and causes increased costs to ameliorate those persons health. For children the effect on their ability to learn while their stomach is empty has been documented as dire. For reasons of Economic Justice I urge you to support this bill.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#0035.**