



TESTIMONY FOR HB0183
Human Services - Food Supplement Program and Human Services Careers
Scholarships - Alterations

Bill Sponsor: Chair, Appropriations Committee

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

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.

Earlier this legislative session, we provided testimony in support of HB 183/SB 213 because we strongly support the Summer SNAP for Children program, which ensures that children have the resources they need to grow and thrive.

Unfortunately, HB 183 (with amendments that passed the House Appropriations committee on 3/8), will defund this successful and vital food assistance. Last summer, more than 100,000 children received this supplemental funding on their SNAP cards to help families make ends meet. Families eligible for SNAP are very low-income. For example, a family of 3 may be eligible if their income is less than \$33,000 a year. While the federal SNAP ("food stamps") program provides vital support, the federal benefit levels do not account for the fact that many families still struggle to put food on the table during the summer months when schools are closed, school meals disappear, and childcare costs skyrocket. Summer SNAP for Children helps fill this gap by automatically adding to existing SNAP food assistance cards \$30+ per child, per summer month and an additional \$10+ per child during the winter. All funding goes directly to children in the

lowest income households, without additional administrative or overhead costs.

Nonprofits like ours work hard to support children and families with their immediate needs -- but can not do it alone. Programs like Summer SNAP for Children reduce poverty and food insecurity by addressing the root causes and we strongly support its continued operation.

Please vote for Delegate Queen's amendments HB 183, which will protect this vital program and maintain the minimum \$200,000 in state funding that is required in statute. Towson University economists found that additional state funding for *Summer SNAP for Children* [will greatly benefit the economy while reducing food insecurity, creating additional jobs, and increasing tax revenues.](#)

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 WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.