

**2024 HB0358 SB0151 Support Food & Friends.pdf**

Uploaded by: Casey Dyson

Position: FAV

# FAV



2024 **HB0358** and 2024 **SB0151**

Position: **Support**

**Background:**

For the past 35 years, Food & Friends has been providing freshly prepared, home-delivered medically tailored meals, groceries and nutrition counseling to individuals living with illnesses such as cancer, kidney disease and HIV/AIDS. We were founded in 1988 by residents of Washington D.C. who wanted to take care of their neighbors with AIDS, and last year we home-delivered almost 1.9 million meals to nearly 5,000 people across the DMV – almost 800,000 of those meals to over 2,300 Maryland residents. In Prince George’s County we delivered 495,682 medically tailored meals, groceries and medical nutrition therapy to 1,393 clients and their dependents.

We know from research that medically tailored meals improve health outcomes while reducing healthcare costs for those with multiple serious and chronic illnesses. We rely on 70 staff and a network of over 4,500 volunteers to complete our work each year. A community-based organization in the truest sense of the word.

**Why we support HB0358, SB0151 and the Workgroup on Health and Wellness:**

Health data from Prince George’s County Health Department shows a need for coordinated response to address inequities in the health of residents, including high incidence of diabetes, heart disease, renal disease, maternal health issues and limited healthcare access. Our many years of talking with residents and caring directly for them and their families gives us insight that a coordinated effort is needed to review and evaluate health and wellness practices, programs, services, and resources in the county to improve the health of county residents.

Carrie Stoltzfus  
Executive Director

January 26, 2024

**Contact:**

Casey Dyson  
Government Relations and Public Funding Director  
Food & Friends

[cdyson@foodandfriends.org](mailto:cdyson@foodandfriends.org)

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CFC #52114 • UW #8429

# **KABOOM! - 2024 SB 151 FAV - Prince George's Co Wor**

Uploaded by: Robert Mayer

Position: FAV



**Testimony in Support of SB 151**  
**Prince George's County – Workgroup on Health and Wellness**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**January 30, 2024**

KABOOM! is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to end playspace inequity across the country. We aim to accomplish this goal by partnering with a variety of systems that share our commitment to identifying and eliminating the racially based policy and funding barriers that created the inequities we seek to address. Since 1996, we have created over 17,000 playspaces and ensured over 12 million children have access to quality playspaces. Because the location and quality of playspace infrastructure was determined by the location and availability of housing opportunities, past policies like redlining, restrictive housing covenants, and school segregation have created a legacy of inequity that continues to deprive Black children the same access to quality play equipment that their white counterparts enjoy.

This is why KABOOM! has partnered with Baltimore City Schools, the Baltimore City Recreation and Parks Department, and Prince George's County/Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to address playground inaccessibility in those communities through a data-driven, racially equitable plan. To date, KABOOM! has built over 60 community co-designed playspaces in Maryland with these and other partners. Furthering this effort also involves helping communities address wellness issues more holistically. The benefits of play children experience can only be fully achieved when their nutritional and other wellness needs are being met.

For these reasons, KABOOM! supports passage of SB 151, which would create a multi-sector Workgroup on Health and Wellness in Prince George's County. Addressing children's health and wellness needs through a series of interventions in the areas of food access, community health access, school nutritional support, mental health services, and physical activity can have a compounding positive impact when they are conducted in a coordinated manner. The Workgroup will ensure that the appropriate level of issue identification and coordination can take place.

KABOOM! is committed to this kind of cross sector approach for the promotion of community wellness. Last year, KABOOM! participated in the roll-out of President Biden's National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, which identified five-pillars of action: 1) Improve Food Access and Affordability, 2) Integrate Nutrition and Health. 3) Empower all Consumers to Make and Have Access to Healthy Choices, 4) Support Physical Activity for All, and 5) Enhance Nutrition and Food Security Research to helping underserved populations lead healthier lives. The representatives on this



Workgroup mirror these priorities and will allow Prince George's County to leverage any federal funding or resources which may result from the implementation of this national effort.

KABOOM! hopes that more communities will adopt this kind of strategic, long-term, and community driven approach as they work to address the social determinants of health that are preventing too many Black, low-income, and vulnerable children and families from leading full, healthy lives. We urge the legislature to quickly pass this legislation and hope Governor Moore will soon sign it into law. KABOOM! is ready to assist leaders in Prince George's County with the Workgroup's implementation in any manner that makes sense and aligns with the work we are doing with M-NCPPC and Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation as part of our 25 in 5 Initiative to End Playspace Inequity.

# **SB 151 - Amendment.pdf**

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FWA

# AMENDMENT REQUEST FORM

Date Submitted 01/29/2024

## REQUESTER INFORMATION

Name

C. Anthony Muse

Phone

3092

E-mail

Anthony.Muse@Senate.State.MD.us

## REQUEST INFORMATION

Bill No. SB 151

Bill Title Prince George's County Workgroup on Health & Wellness

Amendment Sponsor C. Anthony Muse

Hearing Date 01/30/2024

Name(s) and contact information of individual(s) the drafter is authorized to contact

Brandi Calhoun

To Be Offered

In Committee



Description and Comments

ADD the following as a member of the workgroup:

M-NCPPC Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation Prince George's County, or their designee

**\*\*PLEASE ATTACH ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO THE EMAIL WITH THIS FORM.\*\***

Please click the SUBMIT button to create an email to send this form.

**SUBMIT**

Updated: 8/18/2022

**SB 151 - Letter of Support House Del..pdf**

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FWA



NICOLE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ.  
CHAIR

ANDREA FLETCHER HARRISON  
1ST VICE CHAIR

KEVIN M. HARRIS  
2ND VICE CHAIR



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DELEGATION

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KYM TAYLOR  
KAREN TOLES  
VERONICA TURNER  
KRISSELDA VALDERRAMA  
JAMILA J. WOODS  
STAFF  
LATOSHA COLEMAN  
DYLAN HARVEY

January 26, 2024  
The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
House Office Building, Room 241  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk,

Bill: HB0358 - Prince George's County - Workgroup on Health and Wellness (PG 409)  
Committee: Health and Government Operations  
Position: Favorable

The Prince George's County House Delegation has voted Favorable in support of HB0358 (PG 409-24). Attached, you will find the vote sheet.

We request that your committee return a favorable report on HB0358, Prince George's County - Workgroup on Health and Wellness. We thank you for your consideration of the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AW', written over a blue horizontal line.

Nicole A. Williams, Esq., Chair Prince George's County House Delegation

# **SB 151 - Testimony for Finance.pdf**

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FWA



Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee  
Vice Chair, Rules Committee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB 151: Prince George's County – Workgroup on Health & Wellness**

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier and members of the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 151 passed out of this committee last year and it would establish a Prince George's County Health & Wellness workgroup. The workgroup would consist of the following members:

- The Chair of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation, or the Chair's designee,
- The Chair of the Prince George's County House Delegation, or the Chair's designee,
- The Chair of the Prince George's County Council, or the Chair's designee, and
- The following members, shall be appointed by the Chair of the Prince George's County Senate Delegation:
  - two representatives of small and local health and wellness businesses, and
  - one integrative health and wellness practitioner.
- The following members, shall be appointed by the Prince George's County Executive:
  - one certified dietitian providing services in Prince George's County,
  - two health and wellness practitioners in Prince George's County, and
  - one representative of the Prince George's County Food Equity Council
  - one representative from Nonprofit Prince George's County Development Association
  - one representative from SCEDA (South County Economic Development Association)
  - ... and I have one friendly **amendment**, "**MNCPPC**" wanted to be added as a member of the workgroup.

As it relates to the health and wellness of our state, I hope some of you will agree with me, that our focus is on DISEASE management... specifically in the black and brown communities. And many of the diseases that we are managing are related to lack of education and limited options and resources.

Therefore, SB 151 would require the workgroup to review:

- 1) the availability of health and wellness practices in the county,
- 2) the available options for **integrative** health & wellness programs in the county, and
- 3) review programs that promote health eating withing the counties government agencies.

After reviewing these programs, the workgroup would be tasked with making recommendations regarding the best practices in the health and wellness community, including strategies and programs that:

- 1) promote healthy eating,
- 2) improve equitable access to healthy, affordable, and accessible food retailers,
- 3) improve access to gyms, rec centers, playgrounds, bike and walking paths,
- 4) promote healthy eating, physical activity, and healthy habits to prevent obesity.

The workgroup will also make recommendations for incentives that may be provided to employers who promote health and wellness strategies. Further, the workgroup will review, report, and evaluate the benefits and feasibility of **integrative** health and creating integrative health and wellness hubs in Prince George's County.

The workgroup would report their findings by December 2025 to leadership.

In closing, I do not know all the answers, but I do know that we are in a health crisis in Prince George's County. In fact, according to the Harvard school of Health, 1 out of 6 children are obese, and 1 out of 3 children are overweight or obese. Unfortunately, there are several factors, but one factor is lack of education.

Therefore, I urge this body for a FAVORABLE report.

# **SB 151 FF.OnePagerPrinceGeorge 2023.pdf**

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FWA

# our work in prince george's county

## WHO WE ARE

Since 1988, we are the only community-based organization in the D.C. region providing home-delivered Medically Tailored Meals and Medical Nutrition Therapy to our neighbors living with serious illnesses that limit their ability to provide nourishment for themselves.

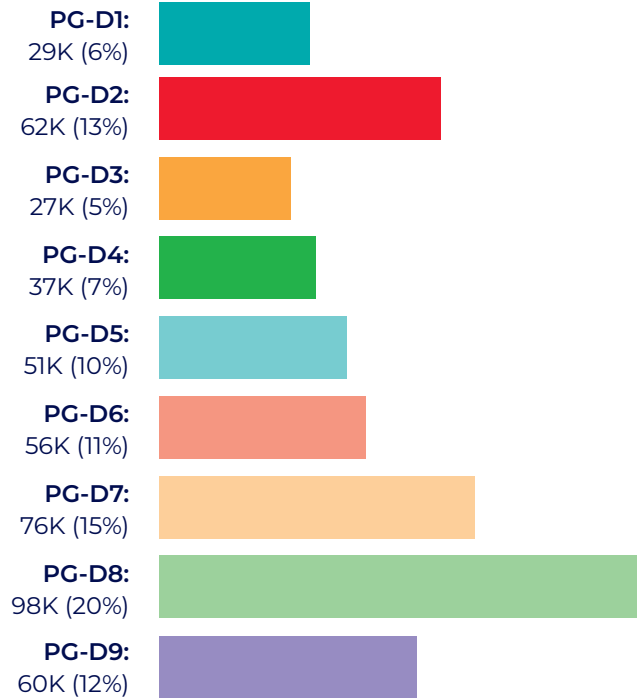
## WHAT WE DO

With the help of thousands of volunteers, Food & Friends prepares and delivers nutritionally tailored, delicious meals directly to our neighbors' homes. Our Registered Dietitians and professional chefs work closely to provide individualized services to our clients.

## WHO WE SERVE

Food & Friends provides Medically Tailored Meals, groceries, and Medical Nutrition Therapy to people living with life-challenging illnesses. All meals and services are free-of-charge to the client. Recognizing that clients with children often share their food with their kids, Food & Friends also provides services to dependents and caregivers in the household, ensuring the parent can focus on getting well.

## TOTAL MEALS DELIVERED



**Food & Friends** is built on a simple premise: anyone can get sick, and everyone can help.

In FY23, Food & Friends home-delivered over 495,682 Medically Tailored Meals to 1,011 primary clients in Prince George's county. In 2023, our clients had a range of illnesses including cancer, diabetes, renal disease, HIV/AIDS, maternal health concerns, heart disease and other serious illnesses.



**495,682**  
meals delivered  
to Prince George's  
County each year



**1,393**  
total clients live  
in Prince George's  
County



**605**  
nutrition encounters  
with our registered  
dietitians



**247**  
volunteers live in  
Prince George's  
County



**76%**  
of all households  
served have income  
less than \$1500/month

## CONNECT



**Food & Friends**  
219 Riggs Road NE  
Washington, DC 20011  
[www.foodandfriends.org](http://www.foodandfriends.org)

**Phone:** (202) 269-6836  
**Fax:** (202) 635-4265  
[publicgrants@foodandfriends.org](mailto:publicgrants@foodandfriends.org)  
United Way #8429 CFC #52114

# impact in prince george's county

## LOWER COST OF CARE

Proper food and nutrition helps increase absorption of medication, reduces side effects, and helps patients maintain a healthy body weight. As a member of the national Food is Medicine Coalition (FIMC), we adhere to rigorous nationwide nutrition and quality standards and uniquely employ Medical Nutrition Therapy through our Registered Dietitians, personalizing each client's nutrition needs and encouraging lifelong improved nutrition.

According to the Maryland Department of Health, serious illnesses such as diabetes cost an estimated \$4.9 billion dollars in Maryland each year for the approximately 2.1M adults with diabetes or prediabetes. Research shows that people living with complex health conditions and enrolled in Medically Tailored Meal programs experience 50% fewer inpatient admissions and 70% fewer emergency department visits than similar patients not enrolled in a MTM program.<sup>i</sup> Recently published national research shows that if all US eligible patients received access to MTMs with nutrition standards such as ours, in just the first year of service 1,594,000 hospitalizations could be avoided for a net cost savings of \$13.6 billion..<sup>ii</sup>

## EQUITY

Our Medically Tailored Meals and Medical Nutrition Therapy are free to clients and their families, and we work tirelessly to ensure that no eligible client is turned away. Over 76% of our client households have income of less than \$1500 per month—we immediately address inequitable social determinants of health such as health-care access and food security.

## HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

We believe in the power of compassion and the importance of neighbors helping neighbors, so we create opportunities for impactful and fulfilling volunteer service that helps our sick neighbors and builds a healthier community for all. MTMs have been associated with reduced depressive symptoms and fewer dilemmas between paying for either food, healthcare or prescriptions.<sup>iii</sup> Our Client survey shows that 73% of our clients report improved mental health, 83% report improved quality of life, 81% report they are better able to follow doctors' orders and over 93% of our clients reported that they learned to eat better for their health condition after talking with our dietitians.



*"Thank you! Excellent service, friendly staff, delivery always on time. Feeling a lot healthier and haven't been in the hospital since."*

— Food & Friends Client

## NEED FOR INCREASED SUPPORT

Food & Friends saw a 23.6% increase in need in Maryland in 2023, likely due to pandemic-delayed diagnosis of severe illnesses and due to rampant food insecurity from inflation and a volatile job market. To achieve our mission, we stitch together Federal, State and local public funds, private contributions and reimbursements from partnerships with Medicaid managed care plans. By supporting Food & Friends' services, Prince George's County engages in a true public-private partnership that benefits the most vulnerable citizens and helps to build a healthier, more economically vibrant community.

i. Seth A. Berkowitz et al, Meal Delivery Programs Reduce the Use Of Costly Health Care In Dually Eligible Medicare And Medicaid Beneficiaries, HEALTH AFFAIRS, (2018).

ii. Hager K, Cudhea FP, Wong JB, et al. Association of National Expansion of Insurance Coverage of Medically Tailored Meals With Estimated Hospitalizations and Health Care Expenditures in the US. JAMA Network Open. 2022;5(10):e2236898. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.36898

iii. Tapper EB, Baki J, Nikirk S, Hummel S, Asrani SK, Lok AS. Medically tailored meals for the management of symptomatic ascites: the SALTYFOOD pilot randomized clinical trial. Gastroenterology Report 2020;8(6):453-456. DOI: 10.1093/gastro/goaa059.

# **SB0151 Support Food Friends.pdf**

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FWA



# FAV



2024 **HB0358** and 2024 **SB0151**

Position: **Support**

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Carrie Stoltzfus  
Executive Director

January 26, 2024

**Contact:**

Casey Dyson  
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# **Position Statements\_ SB 0151 Prince George's Count**

Uploaded by: Jordan BaucumColbert

Position: FWA



## **POSITION STATEMENT**

**Bill:** SB 0151 Prince George’s County – Workgroup on Health and Wellness

**Position:** Supports with Amendments

**Date:** January 30, 2024

**Contact:** Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Pamela Beidle and Vice Chair Katherine Klausmeier,

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“the Commission” or M-NCPPC) has voted to support this bill with amendments. The Commission respectfully requests that the Finance Committee consider these amendments and include them in the record.

**Background.** This bill seeks to establish a workgroup on health and wellness in Prince George’s County to review and evaluate health and wellness practices, programs, services and resources in Prince George’s County and make recommendations regarding best practices in health and wellness community programming in the County. This bill would also require the workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George’s County Executive, the Chair of the Prince George’s County Council, the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

**Workgroup Members.** The Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks Department) is a long-time supporter of the health and well-being of Prince George’s County residents. Promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and instilling habits for optimum health have also been among our top priorities. A friendly amendment to include the *M-NCPPC Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation Prince George's County, or their designee* on the workgroup would help the Parks Department continue to enhance its health priorities among community residents alongside agencies within Prince George’s County.

For these reasons, we ask that the committee provide a favorable vote and support SB 0151 with amendments.