



**SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

**SENATE BILL 213**

**HUMAN SERVICES - FOOD SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM (SUMMER SNAP FOR CHILDREN ACT)**

**TESTIMONY OF RABBI AVI LENCZ  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, AGUDATH ISRAEL OF MARYLAND**

**SUPPORT**

Agudath Israel of Maryland speaks on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish communities across Maryland, and on behalf of the 10,000 students attending 30 Jewish day schools in our great state and their families.

Food insecurity has become increasingly salient in discussions regarding improving the lot of vulnerable Marylanders. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has been a crucial lifeline to many families and individuals who struggle with the challenges of low income. During the summer months when schools are out and children are at home, the challenges of food insecurity can increase, and the Summer SNAP for Children program has successfully helped children and families deal with these challenges.

Senate Bill 213 will help the State to leverage federal dollars and optimize its efforts in combatting food insecurity, and bring State and federal disbursement periods together. The additional funding will help administrators eliminate barriers that currently make it harder for needy Marylanders to fully partake in the program. We respectfully request that you issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 213.