



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
121 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB0538 - DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - FEDERAL
COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM - ADMINISTRATION - POSITION:
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide favorable testimony on House Bill 538 (HB 538).

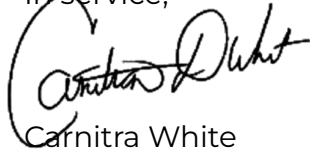
With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. HB 538 transfers the administration of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) from the Maryland Department of Aging to DHS.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is a federal health and nutrition program for low-income families and individuals age 60 and older. The program helps alleviate food insecurity, ensuring individuals and families can access balanced meals and necessary nutrients. Through the program, eligible participants receive a monthly package of nutritious foods, including grains, fruits, vegetables, protein, and dairy products. The supplemental program enables families to stretch limited budgets and direct their financial resources towards other essential needs such as housing, healthcare, and education. The focus of CSFP to improve food security and access to better nutrition for Marylanders aligns with our existing efforts combating food insecurity and expands the various food assistance programs managed by our Family Investment Administration (FIA).

We currently administer the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) by contracting with the Maryland Food Bank and the Capital Area Food Bank to receive and store food available from the United States Department of Agriculture. Food is distributed among eligible soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters in all 24 jurisdictions. We are able to closely align the administration of CSFP and TEFAP as both programs serve low-income Marylanders. Five sub-grantees in local jurisdictions are actively delivering services and will continue in the same capacity when CSFP administration is transferred to us. We are able to administer and oversee the CSFP program without additional infrastructure because the CSFP program can be implemented by established and experienced staff implementing TEFAP.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at rachel.sledge@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carnitra White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carnitra White
Principal Deputy Secretary