

EMILY SHETTY
Legislative District 18
Montgomery County
Appropriations Committee
Chair, Health and
Social Services Subcommittee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 350
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3181 • 301-858-3181
800-492-7122 Ext. 3181
Emily.Shetty@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB538

Appropriations - Department of Human Services - Federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program - Administration

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and esteemed members of the House Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 538, a bill that would transfer the administration of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program from the Department of Aging (DoA) to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to better align administration of hunger and nutrition programs.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is designed to improve the health of low-income beneficiaries over the age of 60. The program supplements the diets of these individuals by providing participants with nutritious foods. The USDA distributes both food and administrative funds to participating states and Indian Tribal Organizations to operate the CSFP.

The CSFP has been operating within the DoA since 2015. Annually, the program receives roughly \$300,000 from the federal government. The Department of Human Services, however, administers most food and nutrition programs in the state, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Maryland Emergency Food Program (MEFP), Restaurant Meals Program, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). HB 538 supports the request from both DoA and DHS that the CSFP transfer over to DHS as a way to streamline the overall administration of nutrition and hunger programs.

Thank you for the committee's consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 538.