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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Capital Budget Subcommittee  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## Vote Yes On Senate Bill 0461

**Bill Title: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Heat and Eat Program –  
Eligibility Committee: Finance Committee  
Hearing Date: February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 461, legislation that strengthens food security for Maryland's most vulnerable residents by prioritizing households that include elderly or disabled individuals.

Senate Bill 461 updates eligibility requirements for the Heat and Eat Program to ensure that limited resources are directed to seniors and individuals with disabilities who face the greatest risk of food insecurity and financial hardship. By aligning assistance with need, this bill promotes fairness and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Many elderly and disabled individuals live on fixed incomes and must balance rising costs for food, housing, and utilities. These financial pressures often force families to make difficult choices between necessities. This legislation helps relieve that burden by improving access to nutrition assistance and ensuring households can better meet both food and energy needs.

The Heat and Eat Program plays an important role in expanding SNAP benefits by recognizing utility expenses in eligibility calculations. Strengthening this program supports better health outcomes, reduces hunger, and helps vulnerable residents maintain independence and stability in their communities.

By focusing support on those who need it most, Senate Bill 461 advances equity, economic security, and public well-being across Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray  
45<sup>th</sup> District