



To: Chair Maggie McIntosh and Vice-Chair Michael A. Jackson, House Appropriations Committee
From: The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland
Re: Support for House Bill 1532 – The Protect Against Hunger Act
Date: March 10, 2020

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland is a coalition of non-profits, community groups, advocates, faith communities, and public agencies that was founded in 2008. The Partnership works to increase food security and leveraging nutrition programs is our key strategy. We focus on enhancing food access through school breakfast, school lunch, afterschool meals, and summer meals, as well as the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), Women, Infants and Children’s Program (WIC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger urges your support of House Bill 1532, Human Services – Food Supplement Program – Eligibility (Protect Against Hunger Act), to protect Marylander citizens from harmful federal changes in SNAP eligibility. Policy changes to SNAP that have been adopted or proposed will: impose time limits on receipt of SNAP benefits for those considered “able-bodied adults without dependents;” add administrative burden and reduce efficiency by limiting “broad based categorical eligibility” (BBCE); and affect income deductions for utility costs by imposing a standard utility allowance. **These federal rule changes are anticipated to impact nearly 80,000 Maryland residents and over 44,000 households.**¹

Research has shown that SNAP works to lift families out of poverty, improve overall health and diet, and improve children’s educational attainment. SNAP is also an important economic stimulus.² For every \$1 in SNAP benefits, \$1.80 is generated in local economic activity.³ SNAP participation is also used by our schools to directly certify over 177,000 students for free school meals. Federal changes to SNAP eligibility put these students at risk for losing access to free school meals. In turn, fewer directly certified students results in lower compensatory education funding for schools, as this is part of the formula used to measure poverty and distribute funding.

This legislation will protect families against food insecurity as well as protect our local retailers from the lost business due to the federal changes to SNAP. The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger **urges a favorable report** on House Bill 1532.

Respectfully submitted by The Policy Committee of the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland. Please contact Policy Committee Chair, Noora Kanfash, at nkanfash@strength.org if you have any questions.

¹ Estimated Effect of Recent Proposed Changes to SNAP Regulations, Laura Wheaton (2019).

² SNAP Helps Struggling Families Put Food on the Table, CBPP (2019). <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/chart-book-snap-helps-struggling-families-put-food-on-the-table>

³ The Food Assistance National Input-Output Multiplier (FANIOM) Model and Stimulus Effects of SNAP, Kenneth Hanson (2010). <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=44749>

Members of the Policy Committee of the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland
Advocates for Children and Youth • Capital Area Food Bank • Critical Issues Forum • Family League of Baltimore
Maryland Association for Elementary School Principals • Maryland Farmers Market Association
Maryland Food Bank • Maryland Hunger Solutions • Maryland Out of School Time Network
Maryland PTA • Montgomery County Food Council • Share Our Strength - No Kid Hungry Maryland
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore