



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 49

Department of Human Services – Food Supplement Program - Renaming

Senate Finance Committee

January 9, 2020

Submitted by Stacey Jefferson and Matt Quinlan, Co-Chairs

Member Agencies:

Advocates for Children and Youth
Baltimore Jewish Council
Behavioral Health System Baltimore
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Catholic Charities
Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Family League of Baltimore
Fuel Fund of Maryland
Health Care for the Homeless
Homeless Persons
Representation Project
Job Opportunities Task Force
League of Women Voters of Maryland
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Maryland Catholic Conference
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Maryland Community Action
Partnership
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Hunger Solutions
Paul's Place
Public Justice Center
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore
Welfare Advocates

Marylanders Against Poverty

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Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) supports SB 49, which renames the Food Supplement Program (FSP) in the Department of Human Services to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Food Supplement Program (known nationally as SNAP, and formerly as Food Stamps) is a critical safety-net program that reduces food insecurity for low-income Marylanders. Statewide, over 625,000 Marylanders utilize FSP to purchase food and make ends meet.¹

Renaming the Food Supplement Program to reflect the terminology used at the federal level will alleviate discrepancies and confusion. Streamlining the name of FSP to SNAP will assist with vital outreach efforts, as it simplifies materials and descriptions of the program. Passing SB 49 will reduce the need for multiple names referring to a single program in the Department of Human Services and amongst service providers.

MAP appreciates your consideration and urges a favorable report for support SB 49.

Marylanders Against Poverty (MAP) is a coalition of service providers, faith communities, and advocacy organizations advancing statewide public policies and programs necessary to alleviate the burdens faced by Marylanders living in or near poverty, and to address the underlying systemic causes of poverty.

¹ Department of Human Services (2019). *Food Supplement Program: Cases, participants, & issuances* [Data file]. Retrieved from <http://dhs.maryland.gov/documents/Data%20and%20Reports/FIA/Statistical%20Reports/2019-All-Prg-MoStat-Public-Web-w-Charts-FINAL-11.pdf>