

To: Hon. Chair Pinsky and Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 767
Higher Education – Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program – Established
Date: March 9, 2021

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

My name is Gianiree Pinares, I am a current student at Montgomery College. I am writing you today to support this bill because as a teen mom and current student I do not want my son to stop pursuing his dreams because of hunger.

This bill is about feeding our youth, let's have in consideration that our actions today will impact their tomorrow and therefore our future, because when it is time for us to step down, it will be their moment to guide us.

When I enrolled in Montgomery College, back in 2019; I was excited to start my medical career but a couple months later my family's economic situation was not the best. I wrote letters to different churches for support because I was not even able to buy food and were owing 4 months of rent and had an eviction order. It was either to spend my small budget on classes or food, that is why I had to drop off college.

This is not only about feeding college students, but also encouraging our youngest population to accomplish their goals, get a higher education, and be able to provide a better future for their families without starving in the process. If this would have been in place back then, I would probably be getting my associate degree as a surgeon in a couple months. If you approve this bill, I will not have to worry about my son being hungry while learning in the future.

Thank you for your consideration, I urge a favorable report on SB 767.

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