



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0913
HUMAN SERVICES – SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – HEAT
AND EAT PROGRAM**

Bill Sponsor: Senator McCray

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0913 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill would establish a Heat and Eat Program within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program within the Department of Human Services. The program would allow individuals who pay utilities through their rent, but are eligible for utility assistance, to claim a standard utility allowance on their SNAP application, thus increasing their SNAP benefits.

We support any efforts to help Maryland families who are struggling by allowing them a small increase in their SNAP benefits.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.