



MARYLAND

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1027**

*House Appropriations Committee*

March 10, 2022

No Kid Hungry Maryland is pleased to support HB 1027 which would make permanent the temporary availability of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to previously ineligible college students, allowing more students to access government assistance while focusing on their education.

As a campaign of national anti-hunger organization Share Our Strength, No Kid Hungry Maryland works with partners – lawmakers, educators, business leaders and nonprofits – to identify and eliminate the barriers that may prevent children and families from accessing healthy and nutritious meals. Passage of HB 1027 represents an important step toward achieving this goal by ensuring college students and their families have access to healthy and nourishing meals while they work to advance their education.

SNAP is one of the most effective and efficient ways to ensure that individuals and families have the support they need to purchase food. It serves as a lifeline for many and helps to ensure that those who have fallen on hard times are able to access the nutrition they need to get back on their feet.

In response to the tremendous economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress extended eligibility for SNAP to college students who were eligible for, but not necessarily participating in, a federal or state work study program or have an Expected Family Contribution of \$0. Under normal circumstances, program rules would prevent these students from receiving nutrition assistance. The current authorization for this waiver expires 30 days after the federally declared COVID-19 public health emergency ends. HB 1027 will ensure that food-insecure students remain eligible for SNAP benefits after the emergency declaration ends since our nation as well as our students and their families are continuing to recover from the pandemic.

Food insecurity impacts the learning, health, and stability of college students. HB 1027 will ensure that Maryland's college students have the nutrition they need to complete their education. Therefore, we are pleased to support HB 1027 and urge committee members to vote "yes" when this bill is before them. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [aholmes@strength.org](mailto:aholmes@strength.org).

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