



Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Bill Number: HB 456 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement

Hearing Date: February 8, 2022

Position: Support

My name is Olivia Massa, and I am a community dietician with Moveable Feast. We strongly support *House Bill 456 – Supplementation Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement*. Current law provides for a state supplement of \$30 for individuals 62 years or older and who receive a federally funded benefit of less than \$30 under SNAP. The bill modifies this provision to the following: If the individual is 60 years or older and receives a federally funded benefit of less than \$45, then the state will provide a state supplement of \$45.

Moveable Feast, through nutritional counseling and medically-tailored meals, serves individuals living at the intersection of food insecurity and chronic illness. In my role as a community dietitian, I have seen first-hand how SNAP benefits have helped to relieve some of those barriers. The recent increases in SNAP benefits over the past few months has had a significant impact for clients. One client specifically reported that because of the increased benefits, he was less stressed about running out of food before he could purchase more. Another client shared a similar story, and also emphasized that she was able to buy more fruits and vegetables and was eating them more regularly compared to when she was receiving a lower amount of SNAP benefits. A recent study showed a reduction in Medicaid costs after SNAP benefits increased, especially amongst those living chronic illnesses with high sensitivity to food insecurity (FRAC). As is indicated in the literature and my experience with Moveable Feast clients, expanding SNAP benefits, as is outlined in this legislation, would improve health

outcomes and food security for thousands of Marylanders, and ultimately decrease healthcare costs. On behalf of Moveable Feast and the clients we serve, I urge you to support this bill.

If I can provide any additional information, you may contact me through Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

Reference: <https://frac.org/programs/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/positive-effect-snap-benefits-participants-communities>