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**BILL NO.:**           **HB 465**

**TITLE:**             Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement

**SPONSOR:**         Delegate Valentino–Smith

**COMMITTEE:**      Appropriations

**POSITION:**       **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**             February 8, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 456 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement. This legislation would provide further food assistance to vulnerable populations in Maryland by lowering the minimum eligibility age for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and by increasing the minimum monthly under this program.

Food insecurity remains a critical issue for lower income families all across the state, and the Covid-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the problem. Access to food is a basic necessity that should be expanded to all Marylanders in need. Baltimore County has worked to address this need by standing up food distribution sites and providing new shuttle services to grocery centers to expand access in food insecure neighborhoods. Even with these investments, there is more work to be done.

This legislation expands State SNAP benefits to households with individuals at least 60 years old from the previous minimum of 62 years old. It also increases the minimum monthly benefit to a maximum of 45 dollars a month. These provisions would assist many low-income Marylanders who face food insecurity. This legislation is more important than ever as government works to lessen the devastating effects that Covid-19 has had on low income communities within Maryland

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 456. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).