

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to ask for your support of HB456: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement. This state supplement would increase the SNAP minimum benefit for adults 60 years and older to \$45 a month. Maryland currently provides a supplement to increase the minimum benefit to \$30 a month, but with the rapidly rising cost of food, we deem it necessary to provide another increase to support the nutrition and wellbeing of older adults in our state.

All SNAP recipients in Maryland currently receive the maximum allotment for their household size thanks to the emergency allotment waiver. However, this waiver is tied to the federal public health emergency, and once that is declared over, benefits will return to pre-pandemic levels and many older adults could see their benefits drop significantly. Increasing the minimum benefit will reduce this incoming hardship facing older adults across Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maryland Hunger Solutions

Manna Food Center

Maryland Food Bank

AARP Maryland

Capital Area Food Bank

No Kid Hungry Maryland

Fair Farms Campaign of Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Maryland Nonprofits

Prince George's County Food Equity Council

Baltimore Jewish Council

Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Association

Maryland Retailers

Montgomery County Food Council

Homeless Persons Representation Project

Healthcare for the Homeless

Marylanders Against Poverty

Public Justice Center

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland

Critical Issues Forum

Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network