



TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Members, House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Jared Solomon

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
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DATE: March 10, 2022

RE: **SUPPORT** – House Bill 1027 – *Food Supplement Benefits – Students – Eligibility (SNAP for Students)*

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1027.

House Bill 1027 would enable college students who met certain eligibility requirements to receive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. A student would only be eligible if the student's family was not contributing to the educational costs of the student, or the student is eligible to participate in a state or federally financed work study program. The student must be a resident of the State and enrolled for at least 15 credit hours per year.

Food insecurity is a significant challenge for any individual and negatively impacts a person's health, well-being, and ability to become economically independent. A student who is pursuing a college degree and seeking a career path that will enable the student to be self-supporting and contribute to their community should not have to worry where and if they will be able to afford food. A student who suffers from food insecurity will undoubtedly find it difficult if not impossible to focus on their educational progress. Passage of House Bill 1027 will support the ability of economically challenged students to achieve academic success and self-sufficiency. A favorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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