



Montgomery County Community Action Board Testimony in Support of HB1027
Food Supplement Benefits – Benefits – Eligibility (SNAP for Students)
March 10, 2022

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chair; The Honorable Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair; and
Members of the House Appropriations Committee
FROM: Tiffany Jones, Chair, Montgomery County Community Action Board

On behalf of the Montgomery County Community Action Board, the County’s federally designated anti-poverty group, we strongly support HB1027. Food and nutrition programs are a longstanding priority for our board and we continue to advocate for policies that expand supports to more people who need them.

HB1027 continues the expansions of the SNAP program for college students that were instituted during the COVID-19 emergency. Students eligible for federal work study programs and those whose family contributions are zero according to their federal financial aid applications, will continue to be eligible for SNAP. These expansions are critical because college students often face food insecurity without any support and are often overlooked by existing programs. A 2019 survey of college students nationwide found that 39% had experienced food insecurity in the last 30 days.¹ Removing barriers to food assistance is essential and HB1027 does just that.

Here in Montgomery County, about 8.6% of residents are food insecure, meaning that they experience a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in the household to live an active, healthy life.² With the very high cost of living in the County, the challenges that students with limited incomes face are significant. The Self-Sufficiency Standard for a household with just one adult is \$37,807. This includes \$294 per month for food costs. If the household includes a child, a preschooler for example, the annual Self-Sufficiency Standard jumps to \$71,755 and monthly food costs increase to \$445.³ Many college students would find it incredibly difficult to attain these income levels and pay for necessities, including food, without support. This bill can provide critical support to this overlooked population by making it a little easier to obtain SNAP. We ask the Committee for a favorable report.

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/personal-finance/college-students-food-insecurity/>

² <https://www.feedingamerica.org/>

³ <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/>