



February 4th, 2022

Testimony of Laura Hale
American Heart Association
Support of HB 456- SNAP State Supplement

Dear Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the committee today. The American Heart Association extends its support for House Bill 456- SNAP State Supplement. My name is Laura Hale and I am the Director of Government Relations for the American Heart Association.

Access to nutritious healthy food is essential for long term heart health. Unfortunately, too many senior Marylanders are food insecure and do not have access to healthy foods or even enough to eat. The disparities have been even more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation takes important steps in expand access as well as increase funding for senior Marylanders.

For those who are food insecure, this issue of access is often compounded by the fact that these individuals only have limited funds for food and transportation and do not have access or money for healthier options. Expanding the budget for those who are on a fixed income is key to the health and nutrition of our seniors.

This legislation is an important step towards increasing access to foods for those who are food insecure. The American Heart Association urges a favorable report on House Bill 456 to support the health of all Marylanders.