



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 02/15/2022
RE: HB1027 Food Supplement Benefits – Students – Eligibility
(SNAP for Students)

The MLLC supports HB1027 Food Supplement Benefits – Students – Eligibility (SNAP for Students)

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1027.

Current guidelines for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, specify that in addition to income requirements, full-time college students must be either participating in a state or federal work study program or working for more than 20 hours/week in order to receive benefits.

This requirement places a significant burden on food-insecure students who are pursuing higher education with the hope of getting out of poverty. There are studies that indicate that food insecurity causes lower GPAs, poorer health, and higher rates of depression and anxiety. In December 2020, Congress temporarily waived SNAP work requirements for students and expanded it to any student who qualifies for a full Pell Grant. However, this extension of benefits will end days after the end of the federally-declared COVID-19 emergency. Cutting off SNAP support for many college students will cause an economic burden to the students who are trying to meet their basic needs while in school and sometimes while working low wage jobs.

This bill would make the SNAP expansion permanent for college students in Maryland. The bill will make a significant difference in the lives of low-income and food-insecure college students, allowing them to focus on school without fear of going hungry.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1027.