



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

Catholic Charities

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community
Relations Council of
Greater Washington*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

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Testimony in Support HB 456 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement House Appropriations Committee February 8, 2022

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN on behalf of older Marylanders, welcomes the opportunity to support HB 456 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – State Supplement. SNAP is the primary source of nutrition assistance for many people who are struggling to make ends meet, including thousands of older adults. We appreciate Delegate Valentino-Smith sponsoring HB 456.

In short, HB 456 lowers from 62 to 60 the minimum age that a member of a household must be for eligibility for a State-provided supplemental benefit under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; increasing the amount of the supplemental benefit that the State must provide by increasing the minimum total monthly benefit from \$30 to \$45.

The SNAP program helps many low-income older adults put enough food on the table. The benefits are especially important for low-income older Marylanders who face employment challenges, live on fixed incomes, or live alone. Food insecure, older Marylanders must often engage in economic trade-offs—sacrificing their food budget to pay for other necessities, such as rent or other housing costs, transportation, or medical bills.

Despite the program's importance, the benefits fall short of what many participants need to afford a healthy diet. A 2015 report, [Aging, Nutritional Status and Health](#) indicates that adequate and nutritious diet is critical to maintaining health, quality of life, and independence as we age.

We believe HB 456 will give access to more older Marylanders to the SNAP program. MSCAN respectfully request that the Appropriations Committee issue a favorable report for HB 456. If you have questions or comments, please contact Carol Lienhard at carollienhard@verizon.net.