



HB456 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - State Supplement
Finance Committee
March 29, 2022

Position: Favorable

Background: HB456 as introduced amends the existing state program to raise the SNAP minimum payment for older adults from \$30 to \$45 a month and to lower the eligibility age to receive this boost from 62 to 60.

Comments: On behalf of the Maryland Food Industry Council, a committee of the Maryland Retailers Association representing the majority of chain and independent food retailers, as well as suppliers, distributors and specialty food companies in our State, we urge the committee's support on HB456. SNAP increases not only help to reduce poverty, alleviate hunger, and improve well-being, but also positively impact the economy. Every \$1 invested in SNAP generates up to \$1.80 of economic activity.

A study conducted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in 2020 found that SNAP benefits are one of the fastest, most effective forms of economic stimulus because the money is quickly injected back into the local economy. It found that every SNAP dollar a low-income family receives enables the family to spend an additional dollar on food, shelter, or transportation. Further proof of this immediate spend is found in the data: 80 percent of SNAP benefits are redeemed within two weeks of receipt and 97 percent are spent within a one-month period of time. Both the Congressional Budget Office and Moody's Analytics rate SNAP expenditures as one of the most effective and efficient supports for the economy.

With this in mind, we urge a favorable report and would support amendments to return the bill to its original posture. Thank you for your consideration.