

SB124 - SUPPORT
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Ways and Means Committee
Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to express my support for SB0124, sponsored by Senator Hettleman, which will create a grant program supporting food waste reduction in schools.

My school district, Montgomery County Public Schools, offered county-wide distribution sites for families who needed assistance with food and school supplies. When I went with my entire family, I saw boxes of fresh produce, canned food, and leftover meals that were not given out before virtual learning. Taking MCPS' conservation efforts into consideration, I appreciated how they did not just simply *throw away* the food but rather put it to good use, especially during a time when people did not have enough resources to survive on their own during the pandemic.

Passing SB0124 would ensure that grant programs are implemented for reducing food waste and insecurity. Schools would create share tables - stations where students can return unconsumed food and beverage items - so that they can be donated to food banks or nonprofit organizations. It is also important to note that this bill deserves its full initial expenditure, helping schools across the state of Maryland achieve their goal of food recovery and environmental conservation.

For all of these reasons and many more, please support SB124 and support a transition toward composting in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sophie Nguyen