



February 24, 2023

Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD. 21401

In Support of HB 514 / SB 559: Education – Maryland Meals for Achievement – Annual Appropriation

Members of the Maryland House of Delegates, Appropriations Committee.

We are an organization of military and non-military families with over 1500 plus members fully support students, who qualify in areas of the greatest concentrations of poverty, access to meals. No hungry student should be denied a meal during the school day at lunchtime or for breakfast.

The Kirwan Commission Report and resulting Blueprint Law, are filled with references to studies outlining the many barriers that hold students back from learning, and accessing their education. Two (2) of the biggest hurdles to children succeeding in our schools are poverty, and daily lack of access to nutritious and healthy food. For some students, this is the only regular meal that they get during their day.

Local School Boards, and their school districts should be accessing the help provided to them by state funding, and not standing in the way of feeding students in their school buildings. Especially those that qualify as students that live in areas of the greatest concentrations of poverty from all across our state. We owe them a chance to learn with their stomachs full, instead of growling from hunger. Let's do our jobs by meeting our obligation to these students, to help give them the best chance of successfully accessing their education, while making a brighter future for themselves, while they realize their dreams of a better tomorrow.

We ask that your committee please support HB 514/SB 559, by returning a favorable report.

Thank you for your time, and for considering our testimony today.

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