

February 8, 2023

FAVORABLE

TO: Delegate Jared Solomon, and members of the Appropriations Committee

FROM: Anuva Maloo

My name is Anuva Maloo, submitting this testimony in support of HB 514, the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program, which would ensure that Maryland would provide breakfast and lunch to all students attending low-income schools.

I am a member of Students to End Poverty, which is a student-run organization based in Montgomery County. Our mission is to advance policy on a state and local level that looks after the interests of lower-income Marylanders. We have advocated for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future bill, helped create the Maryland Student Investment Act, and supported Del. Solomon's affordable housing efforts.

Through these efforts, the importance of a quality K-12 education has become apparent. HB514 is a vital step towards creating an equitable playing field in Maryland.

In a structurally flawed educational system that puts low-income students at an academic disadvantage, no student should face further obstacles in the form of food insecurity. Maryland's school systems have the capacity to ease the burden placed on these students through providing all students with free breakfast and lunch. It is imperative that we take the action necessary to ensure all students are given the necessary opportunities to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Coming from a lower income middle school, and having many friends of whom I know personally rely on school breakfasts and lunches as their meals for the day are in need of these free foods. Offering the option of free breakfasts and lunches will not only ensure that many students are fed and cared for, but also help them perform better at school. The proposed bill will clearly help many students not only who I know but others as well to maintain a healthy lifestyle, without having to devote all of their energy on wondering how to get their next meal.

In light of these facts, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB514.

Thank you,

Anuva Maloo
Montgomery Blair High School
Students to End Poverty (STEP)

My name is Anuva Maloo, and I am submitting my testimony in support of HB 514, the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program, which will ensure that all low-income kids in Maryland get breakfast and lunch.

I am a member of Students to End Poverty, a Montgomery County-based student-run group. Our objective is to advocate state and local legislation that protects the interests of low-income Marylanders. We pushed for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future bill, assisted in the creation of the Maryland Student Investment Act, and backed Del. Solomon's efforts to provide affordable housing.