

**SB353\_USM\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andy Clark

Position: FAV



**EDUCATION, ENERGY, and the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 353**  
**Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program - Alterations**  
**February 22, 2023**  
**Favorable**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 353. Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program – Alterations. The bill requires the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2025, to include in the annual budget bill a \$1,500,000 appropriation for a matching grant program at public institutions of higher education to address hunger and food insecurity. For years, our institutions have lived the reality that an increased number of students are experiencing food or housing insecurity, and sometimes, living unsheltered.

In March 2021, the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice at Temple University published a [survey](#) examining the pandemic’s impact on college students who were able to continue their education in this challenging environment. The report details students’ basic needs including access to nutritious and sufficient food; safe, secure, and adequate housing – to sleep, to study, to cook, and to shower; healthcare to promote sustained mental and physical well-being; affordable technology and transportation; resources for personal hygiene; and childcare and related needs. Basic needs security means that there is an ecosystem in place to ensure that students’ basic needs are met.

All USM institutions have food pantries, emergency funds, and/or other programs to help students meet their most basic need while they are matriculating at our institutions. The program and grant opportunities outlined in Senate Bill 353 would help enhance the institutions’ efforts.

Food insecurity is a predictor of persistence and retention and should be a concern for universities, especially those serving large numbers of students in higher-risk populations. Being able to meet those students’ needs will help increase their opportunities for success at USM institutions and beyond.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share our favorable position on Senate Bill 353.



### **About the University System of Maryland**

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of twelve institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards eight out of every ten bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of twenty-one members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

USM Office of Government Relations - Patrick Hogan: [phogan@usmd.edu](mailto:phogan@usmd.edu)

# **SB 353 - Maryland Food Bank - SUPPORT.pdf**

Uploaded by: Anne Wallerstedt

Position: FAV

## **SB 353**

**Higher Education – Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program – Alterations  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
February 22, 2023**

### **SUPPORT**

Senate Bill 353 mandates \$1,500,000 for the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program in the Governor’s budget beginning in FY 25, and provides funding to first-time recipients for programmatic and implementation costs. It also allows the Maryland Higher Education Commission to retain 15% of allocated funds for administrative costs.

The Maryland Food Bank estimates that 1 in 3 Marylanders are at risk of food insecurity. A person who is food insecure does not have consistent access to healthy and nutritious food on any given day, and this problem persists in every area of the state. There are also communities and populations who are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, including communities of color. The causes of food insecurity are complex and often include additional factors such as low income, lack of reliable transportation, and missing community resources including grocery stores.

The Maryland Food Bank knows that higher education is a demonstrated pathway out of hunger. Yet for many Marylanders, higher education is out of reach due to barriers such as financial affordability, household and familial obligations, and logistical concerns including transportation and affordable housing. Through our College Pantry Program, we establish and support food pantries in partnership with colleges and universities, focusing on healthy food options as well as supports to lift students out of poverty, including workforce development opportunities, public benefit application assistance, and grant dollars for non-food resources such as toiletries and “remain in school” emergency funds. In FY 22, we operated pantries at 12 higher education sites and distributed the equivalent of almost 60,000 meals to food-insecure students across the state.

Students are often an overlooked population for food insecurity efforts, yet the impact of assisting this group far outweighs any upfront cost in terms of the benefit of higher education to the student, their family, and their community. By bringing awareness to college campuses about available food assistance and connection to services such as SNAP enrollment, the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program is a valuable and effective response to the needs of this population.

The Maryland Food Bank appreciates your consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 353.

**UMBC Senate Bill 353 Testimony.docx (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Ariel Barbosa

Position: FAV



**EDUCATION, ENERGY, and the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Senate Bill 353**  
**Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program - Alterations**  
**February 22, 2023**  
**Favorable**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, UMBC is grateful for this opportunity to express our insights regarding Senate Bill 353. Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program – Alterations. The grant opportunities offered with this bill widen the capacity of institutions like ours to meet the needs of our students. Too many students at UMBC are experiencing food or housing insecurity, and sometimes living unsheltered. Nationally, up to 50% of students reporting that their academics have been affected by not having enough food, based on a 2018 study by Broton & Goldrick-Rab.

Food insecurity is a problem that extends beyond UMBC. Estimates put rates of food insecurity at 30-50% on college campuses nationally. Although the trope of a starving student living off of ramen is pervasive and even joked about, the consequences can be serious. Students experiencing food insecurity report negative effects on their physical, mental, and academic health including heightened levels of anxiety and depression, weight changes and disordered eating habits, an inability to stay awake or concentrate in class, and social isolation and withdrawal from their peers. This burden falls unequally on already marginalized students including students of color, first-generation students, and students with disabilities, and represents a barrier to equitable access to education.

I work as Program Coordinator of Retriever Essentials, UMBC's food access network supported by our Division of Student Affairs. We offer many resources, including, but not limited to, a free grocery store staffed by four Federal Work Study Students, a weekly farmers market supplied with free recovered food by So What Else, a Save-a-Swipe meal swipe donation program, and mini-pantries. In 2022, our program relied on 1,500 hours of volunteer hours and distributed 38,600 lbs of donated or recovered food via 4,195 bags to UMBC students, faculty, and staff who required the extra support, more than seven times our 2021 total of 5,279 lbs. From the data we collected, it is clear that many international students and graduate students use our resources. In particular, international students on F-1 visas, many of whom are also facing housing insecurity and difficulty finding employment, rely on Retriever Essentials. To support these students, we rely heavily on our volunteers and 100% on ad hoc support in the form of monetary and in-kind donations.

The program and grant outlined in Senate Bill 353 would greatly help our efforts, ensuring that our program would not have to rely mainly on volunteer hours and donations to operate a program *necessary* at UMBC to meet students' basic needs.

Thank you for allowing UMBC to share our favorable position on Senate Bill 353.

*UMBC was established upon the land of the Piscataway Conoy and Susquehannock peoples. Over time, citizens of many more Indigenous nations have come to reside in this region. We humbly offer our respects to all past, present, and future Indigenous people connected to this place.*



**SB353CarolineHowserSGA\_Fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Caroline Howser

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Education, Energy and the Environment

**Testimony on:** SB353 Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program

**Position:** Favorable

20 February 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and the members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB353 that beginning in fiscal year 2025 allocates \$1,500,000 to the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program, increasing the capacity of institutions and centers to implement the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony for this legislation. My name is Caroline Howser, and I am a junior at the University of Maryland, College Park. In my three years of college, I have never had a dining plan. For my freshman and sophomore year, I lived in an on-campus apartment, so I was not required to have one, and since I pay for my room, board, and tuition myself, I decided not to get a dining plan so I could save money. But what I soon realized was that despite working as much as I could, I was not able to afford groceries, because I also had to set aside money for next year's tuition, send money to my family to help them pay their bills, and cover my own expenses.

I returned home towards the end of the fall semester in 2021 and my mom sat me down to express concern for how thin I had become. To which I could only respond, "I can't afford to eat." After this conversation I decided to apply for SNAP benefits. I hoped I would qualify since I was working my way through college and didn't have a dining plan, but that was not the case. College students have to be working more than 20 hours a week to qualify, and for the most part I was, but there were several weeks where I had exams, or was exposed to COVID-19, or had a holiday break that kept me from being able to hit that 20 hour minimum. All of these instances were completely out of my control, yet kept me from being able to get the help I needed. I applied anyway because I figured it couldn't hurt, and was approved for a one-time amount of \$250. I then used \$250, plus items from my campus' food pantry, to get me through the entire spring semester. I sustained myself using just \$250 for 4 months.

Never having enough food throughout my entire college experience has led to negative impacts on me physically, mentally, and emotionally. My academics have undoubtedly been affected by inability to afford food. College students deserve better, we deserve to be able to eat. And it is for this reason I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB353.

Thank you,



*Caroline Howser (she/her/hers)*

*Student Government Association College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Representative*

*University of Maryland — College Park,*

*chhowser@terpmail.umd.edu*

# **SB353GannonSprinkle.pdf**

Uploaded by: Gannon Sprinkle

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Education, Energy and the Environment  
**Testimony on:** SB353 Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program  
**Position:** Favorable

16 February 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and the members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB353 that beginning in fiscal year 2025 allocates \$1,500,000 to the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program, increasing the capacity of institutions and centers to implement the program.

This bill ensures that all college students, regardless of their background or financial situation, have access to basic needs like food. By funding programs such as Swipe Out Hunger and SNAP enrollment opportunities, and increasing funding for on-campus food pantries, we are providing a level playing field for all students to succeed. This is an investment into Maryland's future. We are filling the stomachs, hearts, and minds of our friends and families; our loved ones and our community.

One day, a friend told me about the food pantry on campus. When I finally worked up the courage to visit, the staff was incredibly welcoming and non-judgmental. They provided me with enough food to get through the week, including fresh produce, canned goods, and some personal hygiene items. It is a lifesaver for students. Very specifically, food pantries save the life of a student each week. I can not even begin to express how much it means for our community to have access to nutritious and healthy food. The food pantry not only helps our society to survive, but it also gives us a sense of hope that we can continue our education and achieve our goals. I urge you to support this bill and provide funding to expand food pantry and other food security programs on college campuses across the state. No student should have to choose between paying for textbooks or buying food. We need your support to ensure that all students have access to the basic necessities of life. Thank you.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB353.

Thank you,



*Gannon Sprinkle*  
*Student Government Association*  
*University of Maryland — College Park,*  
*gsprinkl@terpmail.umd.edu*



# **SB 353 Economic Action Maryland -FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marceline White

Position: FAV



Testimony to the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
SB 353: Higher Education-Hunger Free Grant Program-Alterations  
Position: Favorable

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee  
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Cc: Members, Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a people-centered movement to expand economic rights, housing justice, and community reinvestment for working families, low-income communities, and communities of color. Economic Action Maryland provides direct assistance today while passing legislation and regulations to create systemic change in the future.

We are here today in strong support of SB 353.

SB 353 establishes funding for the Hunger Free Campus program.

SB 353 builds on the important work that took place in the 2021 session to address the critical, yet often overlooked issue of food insecurity on college campuses. According to a 2019 University of Maryland study, 20% of UMD students surveyed experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months.

An October 2022 [Washington Post](#) article found that nationally as many as 41% of college students report limited or uncertain access to food in the past 30 days. The article also noted that food insecurity does have a disparate impact with Black, first-generation, and two-year college students hardest, widening existing inequalities.

Food insecurity harms students. Hungry students tend to have lower GPAs, higher dropout rates, and are less engaged in campus activities because of low energy levels. Failure to ensure college students have the nutrition needed to pursue their studies is an institutional failure, not a reflection of low-income students.

SB 353 provides funding for campuses to become Hunger Free campuses and also requires reporting to gauge the success of the program, gather data on use,

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and evaluate best practices from Hunger Free campuses that are fungible.

The bill provides oversight from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to ensure the funds are properly allocated and to administer this program. When passed SB 353 will provide critically needed assistance to our college students and reduce food insecurity on campuses across the state.

Any costs to enact this program are far outweighed by the benefits that accrue to individual students who can pursue their studies, to Maryland colleges who will see higher GPAs and graduation rates, and for working families who won't be saddled with the costs of paying off student loans without having gained the benefit of the degree.

For all of these reasons, we support SB 353 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White  
Executive Director

2209 Maryland Ave · Baltimore, MD · 21218 · 410-220-0494

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ID 52-2266235

Economic Action Maryland is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



# **2023 Moveable Feast SB 353 Senate Side FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 353 – Higher Education – Hunger Free Campus Grant Program - Alteration

**Hearing Date:** February 22, 2023

**Position:** Support

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Moveable Feast supports *Senate Bill 353 – Higher Education – Hunger Free Campus Grant Program – Alteration*. The bill mandates a minimum funding level of \$1.5 million for the Hunger Free Campus Grant Program. The bill supports a Maryland strategy to address food insecurity on campuses. Research demonstrates that food insecurity impact students’ academic performance and overall health.<sup>i</sup> According to the most recent Hope Survey, 29% of students at 4-year colleges and 38% at community colleges experience food insecurity.<sup>ii</sup> Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/forefront.20220127.264905/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://temple-news.com/hope-center-reports-on-students-basic-needs-insecurity-during-pandemic/>

# **SB353VirtiChoksiTAH\_fav. .pdf**

Uploaded by: Virti Choksi

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Education, Energy and the Environment

**Testimony on:** SB353 Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program

**Position:** Favorable

20 February 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and the members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Virti Choksi and I am part of The University of Maryland, College Park's club, Terps Against Hunger. I am testifying today in support of SB353, which expands the Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program. This bill is important because there are many students on campus that experience hunger and food insecurity on a daily basis. Being part of the Terps Against Hunger club has shown me firsthand that there are numerous students as well as community members that are food insecure. We have seen alarming statistics in Prince George's County and College Park, MD that highlight the number of people that go hungry (around 14% of the population).

Our mission in the club is to reduce the number of community members experiencing this issue by holding meal-packing events. Our most recent event was at IKEA and included community volunteers that worked to package around 17,000 meals. However, there is still a great need for more to be done as there are a lot of people that visit the food pantry located on UMD's campus. Due to this continued need, we also recently held a food drive to donate non-perishable food to the campus pantry. According to UMD Dining Services, There have been 16,000 visits to the Campus Pantry since 2014 – more than half of which were made during or after March 2020.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB353.

Thank you,



*Virti Choksi, Community Education Chair for Terps Against Hunger  
University of Maryland — College Park,  
vchoksi@umd.edu*

# **SB 353 Hunger-Free Campus Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matt Power

Position: INFO

140 South Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

## Letter of Information

### Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee *Senate Bill 353 (Washington) Higher Education – Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program - Alterations*

Matt Power, President

[mpower@micua.org](mailto:mpower@micua.org)

February 22, 2023

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 56,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding *Senate Bill 353 (Washington) Higher Education – Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program - Alterations*. The Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program was established at a critical time when many students who experienced food insecurities were exacerbated due to the coronavirus pandemic. While this new grant program is available to Maryland public two-year and four-year institutions, students enrolled at private four-year institutions would greatly benefit. Hunger is a growing problem on college and university campuses; some figures estimate that up to half of college students will face food insecurities at some point while pursuing their degree. SB 353 expands the program by increasing the appropriated funds from \$150,000 to \$1.5 million. This expansion allows for a meaningful impact on current and new programs that address students with food insecurities.

While MICUA member institutions are not eligible for this grant program, many of our campuses are already engaged in the activities described above and support initiatives that address student and community food insecurities. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Launched in 2016, **Stevenson University** has a campus food pantry run by student coordinators and volunteers. It holds regular hours and is in a central location on campus proximate to other student services. It holds food drives, disseminates public service announcements, and has a Facebook page.
- **Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)** recently established a campus food pantry to serve its students, recognizing the importance of addressing food insecurities to promote both individual wellbeing and educational attainment. MICA also held a food drive in November as part of its annual campus-wide Unity Fest activities.
- The Frederick Food Security Network is a community gardening program through the **Hood College** Center for Coastal and Watershed Studies. It is establishing a network of community gardens to improve food security for residents of local food deserts, reduce local water pollution by diverting rooftop runoff for use as irrigation, and promote better eating habits and environmental stewardship.



AFFILIATES



- **Loyola University Maryland's** FreshCrate Program makes affordable and fresh produce available all year long in local stores along Baltimore's York Road corridor. It is part of the University's York Road Initiative, which focuses on strengthening the community in areas including education, food access, and commercial revitalization.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information related to Senate Bill 353 on behalf of our member institutions. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, [ialtema@micua.org](mailto:ialtema@micua.org).