

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



HB543 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Seniors - State Supplement Appropriations Committee March 6th, 2024

Position: Favorable

Background: HB543 would increase the minimum benefit provided to households with senior citizens.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance strongly supports measures to increase food benefits funding for Marylanders. HB543 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Seniors – State Supplement would increase the minimum \$40 monthly benefit through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to \$75 for households that include individuals over age 62. Retirees often live on a fixed income and can be severely impacted by inflation and increased costs for housing and necessities like groceries and medication. Expanding SNAP benefits for households with seniors would ensure that our elderly benefits recipients have necessary funds for food regardless of other costs of living and would directly inject money into the local economy. This would greatly benefit Maryland’s communities, supporting local businesses and increasing quality of life for seniors.

We would strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB543. Thank you for your consideration.