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February 6, 2024

COMMITTEE: House Appropriations Committee

BILL: HB 666 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement

POSITION: Support

The Horizon Foundation is the largest independent health philanthropy in Maryland. We are committed to a Howard County free from systemic inequities, where all people can live abundant and healthy lives.

The Foundation is pleased to support HB 666 – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – State Supplement. This bill would increase eligible individuals' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program total benefit to \$95, up from \$40.

Like other communities across the state, Howard County families have felt the pain of rising food costs and an increasingly high cost of living. Though we are known as an affluent county, our lower- and middle-income families – particularly families of color – are at risk of, or are already experiencing, food insecurity. HB 666 would give these families a much-needed financial boost and help fight hunger and food insecurity in our community.

By reducing health inequities, we believe all people will be able to live abundant and healthy lives. To help achieve that vision, we must ensure that healthy food is accessible and affordable to everyone in our community.

For this reason, the Horizon Foundation **SUPPORTS HB 666** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for your consideration.