

SHANEKA HENSON
Legislative District 30A
Anne Arundel County

Ways and Means Committee

Joint Committee on
Children, Youth, and Families



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 154
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3045 · 301-858-3045
800-492-7122 Ext. 3045
Shaneka.Henson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 722
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Seniors - State Supplement

Chair Guy Guzzone
Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to voice my strong support for Senate Bill 722 and increasing monthly SNAP benefits for Maryland seniors. This critical legislation takes an important step toward ensuring older residents can afford essential needs.

Far too many senior citizens face impossible choices among basic necessities. According to Feeding America's 2021 report, over 5.3 million adults aged 60+ dealt with the threat of hunger nationwide. Over 2 million faced very low food security with reduced intake or disrupted eating patterns due to inadequate resources for food.

Meanwhile in Maryland, nearly 10% of seniors live in poverty based on 2020 census data. 30% rely solely on Social Security with an average monthly benefit around \$1,500, trying to cover rent, medications, transportation, and healthy food. We must do more to support these individuals who helped build our communities.

Increasing the minimum monthly SNAP benefit from \$40 to \$75 represents a practical, meaningful way we can ease daily financial pressures facing too many older Marylanders. I applaud Senator Benson for recognizing seniors' contributions and crafting a sensible solution. Passing SB 722 sends the unequivocal message that seniors are valued. I urge your favorable report.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SHANEKA HENSON".

Hon. Delegate Shaneka Henson
District 30A- Anne Arundel County