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Prince George's County

MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee

Pensions Subcommittee

Joint Committees

Audit and Evaluation Committee

Children, Youth, and Families

Ending Homelessness

Fair Practices and
State Personnel Oversight



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 722
Budget and Taxation Committee
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Seniors State Supplement
Senator Joanne C. Benson

Good Afternoon, Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe, and the esteemed committee.

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 722, which proposes to increase the minimum monthly SNAP benefit for seniors from \$40 to \$75. As I have met and spoken with seniors across Maryland, I have come to understand the challenges they face in affording necessities, particularly food, on fixed incomes. Across the nation, millions of seniors experience economic hardship and struggle with poverty and hunger.

According to the National Council on Aging, in 2022, over 6 million seniors, nearly 9%, lived below the poverty line. Additionally, 25% of all seniors are considered economically insecure and struggle to meet basic needs such as food, housing, and healthcare.

Our older neighbors and family members should not have to choose between buying food, and medicine, and paying their utilities. The senior population is the backbone of families and communities in every corner of this state. They have contributed enormously over long careers and are deserving of our support and care in their later years. Increasing the SNAP benefit for seniors shows that we value them and that we will be there for those who came before us. Supporting this bill is the right thing to do.

I urge you to report favorably on this legislation SB722.