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Written Testimony - House Bill 386
Maryland Meals for Achievement Flexibility Act of 2024
Ways and Means Committee – January 31, 2024
Support

Background: House Bill 386 would clarify that secondary schools participating in the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program may serve breakfast in any broadly accessible part of the school; and authorize elementary schools participating in the Program to serve breakfast in any broadly accessible part of the school, including from "Grab and Go" carts.

Written Comments: The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies. This includes Jewish Community Services (JCS), which provides a plethora of social services to low-income Marylanders.

The concept of human dignity is well ingrained in Jewish teachings. We believe that all our neighbors deserve access to the basic resources of food, clothing, and shelter. Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast (MMFA) Program provides state funding to supplement federal meal reimbursements so that schools can offer breakfast in the classroom for all students at no charge. A school is eligible when at least 40 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

The MMFA Program makes it possible for schools to offer a nutritious school breakfast, with a proven track record of ensuring school breakfast reaches the students who need it most. By allowing for flexibility in the way the meals are distributed throughout the school, we are increasing accessibility and removing the burden of strict rules from our teachers and support staff.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB386.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.