



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

SUPPORT FAVORABLE

HB 696

Delegate Palkovich Carr Primary and Secondary Education – Breakfast and Lunch Program – Universal Expansion

POSITION

SUPPORT

This legislation, starting in FY27, expands the free breakfast and lunch program to all students in Maryland Public Schools and non-public schools which serve students with disabilities.

Prince George's County Council strongly supports this bill.

The County Council supports this bill because the legislation addresses the issue of children in our County who face hunger daily. One in eight children in Maryland face hunger daily. That is more than 164,000 children. School meals have been shown to be some of the healthiest meals many children consume each day. Healthy school meals have also been lined to positive educational outcomes such as enhanced child development, improved academic achievement, and classroom behavior.

The loss of federal pandemic-related funding for free school meals has become a problem of crisis proportions. It is time now that the State of Maryland follows eight other states and picks up where Congress left off and provide free school meals for all our students.

For the foregoing reasons, Prince George's County Council respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of the legislation.

Prepared by: Barnes International on behalf of Prince George's County Council.

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