

HB0881\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
02/19/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21881

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0881 - FAVORABLE**  
**Family Investment Program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits -  
Child Support**

**TO:** Chair Barnes Vice Chair Chang, and members of the Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0881, **Family Investment Program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits - Child Support**

This bill acknowledges a problem exists when child support pass through monies are used to compute the amount of assistance being received in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

After child custody is established, many parents will end up with child support orders. These orders are generally designed to ensure children's financial well-being so they can maintain the same standard of living with either parent after a separation occurs. However, statistics show that around [30% of parents](#) do not pay their monthly child support obligations. <sup>1</sup>

This statistic, that 3 of 10 custodial child parents are not receiving funds that would have permitted purchases of food for that child, mandate that Maryland assist that child's parent to acquire funds to replace the missing child support monies.

The Torah and Jewish tradition are explicit in commanding that we feed the hungry. (Leviticus (23:22), Isaiah 58:7 talk about feeding the hungry. Deuteronomy 15:7-10 elaborates on our commitment to helping the hunger person amongst us. The text states, "If there is among you a poor man, one of your brethren...you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him, and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be." <sup>2</sup>

This bill accomplishes that "no child hungry" moral imperative by requiring that all child support received in a month pass through to a family seeking assistance under the Family Investment Program and prohibiting the consideration of child support in computing the amount of assistance received. It will prohibit a local department of social services from considering any child support collected when computing the amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to provide.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0881.**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://brpfamilylaw.com/penalties-for-not-paying-child-support-in-maryland>

<sup>2</sup> <https://rac.org/hunger-introduction-jewish-values>