



**St. Mary's County Public Schools**  
**Division of Supporting Services**  
**Department of Food and Nutrition Services**  
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**Mrs. Megan Doran**  
Director

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**Testimony in Support of SB 769**

**Primary and Secondary Education- Community Eligibility Provision-**  
**Hunger Free School Meals**

**Senate Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy and the Environment**

**February 25, 2025**

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

My name is Megan Doran, and I am the Director of Food and Nutrition Services for St. Mary's County Public Schools and Past President for Maryland School Nutrition Association. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 769, which aims to secure state funding to bridge the gap between federal reimbursement rates for schools implementing the Community Eligibility Provision.

This bill is essential as it addresses a critical need within our educational framework. By providing funding to cover the difference in reimbursement rates, we can ensure that all eligible schools receive adequate financial support to maintain their meal programs effectively.

The positive impact of this program on our students' education cannot be overstated. When students have access to free meals, we observe remarkable improvements in their overall school experience, including enhanced focus, participation, and academic performance.

Moreover, we have seen a significant reduction in discipline referrals, better attendance rates, and improved diet quality when all students are provided breakfast and lunch at no cost. These benefits align closely with our school system's mission to foster a conducive learning environment.

Thank you for considering my testimony regarding SB 769. Your support is vital for the continued success of our students and schools.