



Randallstown

Po Box 731 Randallstown, MD 21133

February 4, 2025

Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SUPPORT SB 0353, Food Deserts Workgroup - Establishment

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Randallstown NAACP is a 500 member branch located in Baltimore County, Maryland. We have members in Baltimore County and Baltimore City. One of primary focuses is ensuring that all residents, especially Black Marylanders, have access to healthy food options.

A food desert is defined as an area that lacks access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Living in a food desert can have an adverse impact on the health of those living in the area.

Both Baltimore County and Baltimore City have almost the same percentage of zip codes that are considered food deserts. In Baltimore County, 64.29 percent are food deserts. In Baltimore City it's 64.58 percent. The definition of a food desert is different for urban and suburban areas compared to rural. In rural areas, it is considered a food desert if some or all of the population is 10 miles or more from a grocery store. In urban and suburban areas the definition is being located a mile or more from a food desert. This bill will give us the tools to start to fight food deserts.

The Randallstown NAACP supports SB 0353, Food Deserts Workgroup - Establishment. ***The Randallstown Branch of the NAACP urges a favorable report from the committee on SB 0353.***

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yours

Ryan Coleman
Randallstown NAACP, President
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