



Testimony to Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
For Our Kids Act - Bill HB 1469

March 6, 2025

Greetings Chairman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Ways and Means Committee Members,

My name is Cody Wilt. I am the Vice President of the Maryland School Nutrition Association and Assistant Manager of FNS for Garrett County Public Schools. I am writing to express my strong support for HB1469. The purpose of this Bill is to provide state funding to serve all students a healthy, nutritious breakfast and lunch each day at no cost to the students as part of their school day experience. This legislation is a vital step towards creating a brighter future for our children, ensuring they have the resources and support they need to succeed.

We found that when the federal government paid for us to feed all students both breakfast and lunch at no cost to them, many good things happened in the school environment such as a significant reduction in discipline referrals, better attendance, less tardiness, more ability to focus on and participate in classes, improved test scores and improved diet quality. These positive outcomes are also happening in the 8 states already providing these meals at the states expense according to the multiple studies of these programs.

I urge you to vote for the passage of this bill for the wellbeing of all Maryland students. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to serving the people of Maryland.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in writing and express my strong support for House Bill 1469.

Sincerely,

Cody Wilt, Vice President
Maryland School Nutrition Association