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[capitalareafoodbank.org](http://capitalareafoodbank.org)

March 19, 2026

Chairman Barnes and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

The Capital Area Food Bank urges your support for HB1458 State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees - Establishment.

My name is Joseph Liu, and I am the Director of Advocacy and Public Policy at the Capital Area Food Bank. The Capital Area Food Bank is the anchor of the hunger relief infrastructure in the National Capital Region, providing more than 60 million meals to people in communities across Prince George's and Montgomery County, Maryland, as well as in the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia. We work with a network of nearly 200 other community-based organizations in Maryland to put groceries in the hands of our neighbors in need. Our programs reach neighbors in a variety of ways, from distributions at local schools and churches to senior brown bag programs to our curbside grocery truck. We seek to provide good food today and ensure brighter futures tomorrow.

We know first-hand about the reality of hunger in our communities. When families get turned away from social safety net programs and run out of all other resources, they come to us for basic sustenance. In church basements and community centers, we offer simple nutrition to help them get through their tough times. We see relief and gratitude in their eyes when they are served. We are the last line of defense against empty bellies and total desperation for many.

HB1458 will help our volunteers and donors and community partners keep serving our mission. We would not need this legislation if Congress had not slashed SNAP funding in the One Big Beautiful Bill or HR 1. There are many counterproductive policies in the federal law that harm Maryland families. In Montgomery and Prince George's Counties alone, we estimate that a little over 20,000 families will experience more than \$25 in SNAP benefits cuts with an average loss of \$150 per month because of the federal law. The law also shifted \$52 million of SNAP administrative costs and \$223 million in food benefit expenditures on to the state budget.

A particularly egregious provision of HR 1 was the elimination of SNAP benefits for refugees, asylees, survivors of human trafficking, and others with humanitarian-based immigration status. These are Maryland residents with legal immigration status. Refugee families will have trouble meeting food needs for growing children. Asylees who have had to flee their countries without their families will have to decide whether to pay for food or to pay application fees to bring their

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spouses and children to safety. Survivors of human trafficking, many of whom are assisting law enforcement investigations into trafficking networks, will be without food security.

As Maryland's 7,000-10,000 humanitarian immigrants get disenrolled from SNAP, they will inevitably join the lines at our charitable distributions. They will join TSA employees working without pay because of federal funding chaos. They will join those who were fired by DOGE and are still looking for a job. They will join Marylanders who spent their last dollar at the gas station to get to work. As a result, everyone we serve will have to take a little less to accommodate the greater need.

This legislature has already passed important legislation to keep Maryland a welcoming state for all its residents. Help us fill this narrow but consequential gap created by harmful federal policy and mitigate hunger among legally present families who were previously eligible for SNAP. If survivors of trafficking and war and natural disasters are not deserving, who are?

Thank you for your consideration.

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