
House Appropriations Committee

March 19, 2026

**HB 1458 - State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees -
Establishment****Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, respectfully supports **HB 1458**. Maryland's community colleges serve students from every region and community across the State, including immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking families who are working to build new lives and careers in Maryland. Community colleges are often the first entry point into higher education for newly arrived Marylanders. Students from refugee and asylee communities enroll at community colleges to learn English, earn credentials, gain workforce training, and pursue degrees that allow them to contribute to Maryland's economy and their local communities. As institutions committed to open access and opportunity, community colleges are proud to serve these students and support their success.

Access to basic needs, including food security, plays an important role in student success. Many students balancing coursework, employment, and family responsibilities face financial challenges while pursuing their education and career goals. Ensuring that eligible refugee and asylee households can maintain access to food assistance helps stabilize families and allows students to remain focused on completing their education and workforce training. HB 1458 helps ensure that individuals who were previously eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits are not abruptly excluded due to changes in federal policy. Maintaining access to food assistance for these households supports stability for families who are already contributing to Maryland's communities and workforce.

Maryland's community colleges are deeply connected to the communities they serve and remain committed to supporting students from all backgrounds as they pursue education and opportunity. Policies that strengthen access to basic needs help ensure that students can continue their studies, complete credentials, and participate fully in Maryland's economy. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1458**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.