



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Vice Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Maryland House of Delegates

RE: Support for HB1458 State SNAP for Refugees & Asylees +

Dear Chair Barnes and Vice Chair Kaiser,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) [Food and Regional Agriculture Member \(FARM\) Policy Committee](#), we are writing in support of [HB1458 State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees - Establishment](#).

As the association of local governments in the metropolitan Washington region, COG supports measures that support food security and well-being, as detailed in our [2026 Legislative Priorities](#). This includes using federal, state, and local legislative efforts to improve food security, healthy food access, and food system resilience. This year's legislative priorities also emphasize the need to support efforts which reverse recent changes to SNAP that restrict eligibility to the program.

We support HB1458 to create a state program to provide a SNAP benefit for refugees, asylees, parolees, and other immigrants with legal status, who were previously eligible for this critical, federal nutrition assistance program. HB1458 is designed to support the aforementioned individuals and families who have been present since early July 2025 when HR 1 became law and made them ineligible.

HB1458 is a time limited investment to provide nutritional assistance until such time as participating individuals become lawful permanent residents and eligible for SNAP benefits. We hope you will support this legislation to mitigate one of the harmful impacts of HR 1.

Please contact Lindsay Smith, COG's Senior Food and Agriculture Planner, at 202-962-3307 or lsmith@mwcog.org if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Friedson'.

Andrew Friedson
Chair, FARM Committee
Councilmember
Montgomery County, MD

C: Delegate Gabriel Acevero
Delegate Barry Beauchamp
Delegate Mark Chang
Delegate Mark Edelson
Delegate Catherine Forbes
Delegate Jefferson Ghrist
Delegate Andrea Harrison
Delegate Jim Hinebaugh
Delegate Julian Ivey
Delegate Adrienne Jones
Delegate Dana Jones
Delegate Aletheia McCaskill
Delegate Ric Metzgar
Delegate Susan McComas
Delegate Malcolm Ruff
Delegate Emily Shetty
Delegate Stephanie Smith
Delegate Ryan Spiegel
Delegate Joshua Stonko
Delegate Karen Toles
Delegate Courtney Watson
Monica Beyrouiti Nuñez, Government Relations Manager, COG