



Testimony in Support of House Bill 1458 State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees - Establishment

House Appropriations Committee
March 19, 2026

Maryland Family Network (MFN) strongly supports HB 1458, which establishes the State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees for households in Maryland who were previously eligible for federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, but lost eligibility for SNAP under HR 1.

Maryland Family Network (MFN) has worked since 1945 to improve the availability and quality of child care and other vital supports for children and their families. We have been active in state and federal debates on policies that address the needs of working families and are strongly committed to ensuring that children and their caregivers have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

HB 1458 is a narrow, time-limited program to prevent food insecurity among a small, clearly-defined group of Marylanders who recently lost federal SNAP eligibility due solely to a change in federal law. In July 2025, federal policy permanently narrowed SNAP eligibility for humanitarian entrants, and as a result, refugees, asylees, survivors of human trafficking, certain survivors of domestic violence, and other humanitarian parolees are no longer eligible for federal SNAP until they adjust to lawful permanent residence (LPR).¹ HB 1458 simply preserves SNAP benefits for Marylanders in these categories by creating a state supplement they can receive until they complete the federal adjustment process. It does not open a broad new benefit and applies only to recent arrivals who have not yet adjusted to LPR status and who lost SNAP solely due to the 2025 federal change.

HB 1458 will ensure children have the nutrition they need to learn, grown and thrive. Estimates of HR 1's impact show that a quarter of the population who lost federal SNAP benefits are children.² A body of research underscores the harm food insecurity inflicts on children, from delayed development to negative health outcomes to struggles in educational attainment.³ Passing HB 1458 would help children and their families in Maryland who are here as humanitarian entrants continue to access food assistance, increasing the economic stability of Maryland families, communities, and our state as a whole.

Maryland Family Network respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1458.

Submitted by: Lisa Klingenmaier, Deputy Director of Public Policy

¹ Public Law No. 119-21, § 10108 (2025)

² Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. 2025. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/immigration/harmful-republican-megabill-takes-away-health-coverage-food-assistance-tax>

³ *Pediatrics* (2019) 144 (4): e20190397. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-0397>