



TESTIMONY FOR HB1458

State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees and Asylees – Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Shetty

Committee: Appropriations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1458 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has saved lives by helping the neediest residents in our state receive assistance in putting food on their tables. In the Big Beautiful Bill that was signed last year, eligibility requirements changed, which made most refugees and asylees in the state no longer qualify.

This bill, if enacted, attempts to create a SNAP program for refugees and asylees. This is important, not only because refugees and asylees have few resources and without food assistance would starve, but it also shows our compassion to those who have already suffered much. They are our neighbors and most of them have fled war and oppression. This is what Americans do. This, especially, is what Marylanders do.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.