

**March 13, 2026**

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair  
The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser, Vice Chair  
House Appropriations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Favorable - HB1458 (State Supplemental SNAP for Refugees and Asylees)**

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Dr. Gina Karlin, and I am a resident of Baltimore City in Maryland. I write in strong support of HB1458.

HB1458 provides a targeted, time-limited solution to a gap created by recent federal changes that removed SNAP eligibility for certain legally present humanitarian newcomers, including refugees and asylees. These individuals did not lose eligibility due to any wrongdoing or change in lawful status; rather, they were affected by federal policy shifts and administrative delays in the green card adjustment process.

This bill does not create a broad new benefit. It preserves food assistance only for a clearly defined group who were previously eligible and only until they complete the federal adjustment process. The Department of Human Services will administer and verify eligibility under existing SNAP standards, ensuring appropriate guardrails and accountability.

As a Director of English Language Services at Baltimore City Community College, I see firsthand how food insecurity affects attendance, concentration, and academic progress. Students whose families are struggling to meet basic needs are less able to succeed in the classroom. HB1458 helps ensure that families in transition can provide stable nutrition, supporting better educational outcomes and long-term opportunity.

HB1458 reflects Maryland's longstanding commitment to practical, humane solutions that support families working toward stability while protecting the state's economic and community interests.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB1458.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gina Karlin  
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