



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB1458 State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees
and Asylees - Establishment**

FAVORABLE

**TO: The Honorable Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair, the Honorable Delegate
Anne R. Kaiser, Appropriations Committee,**

**FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy
Network (MEPPN)**

DATE: March 17, 2026

As Christians, we are commanded to take care of and feed the hungry. Throughout the diocese of Maryland, our churches have been overwhelmed by the huge increase in food scarcity among our residents. Our churches work hard and diligently to keep up with the demand. However, the needs of our hungry residents are increasing too quickly with regard to our ability to provide food. We are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. Passing this bill will help to do that.

The Maryland Episcopal Diocese makes this statement about its commitment to Economic Justice:

“Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew how the nations will be judged and it is all about how

we have treated the very people that our systems and biases have marginalized.”

Economic Justice includes the rights to food, clothing, proper health care and housing.

(<https://episcopalmaryland.org/advocacy/>)

**In this spirit of the right of our neighbors to healthy food and full nutrition,
Maryland**

**The Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) requests a favorable ruling on
HB 1458.**

**The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of
The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington,
and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA**