

SB0461_Crossover Bill
RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL SB#0461 -
POSITION: FAVORABLE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Heat and Eat Program – Eligibility

TO: Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and members of the Appropriations Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in favor of crossover bill SB#0461, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - Heat and Eat Program – Eligibility

The [Heat and Eat \(H-EAT\) program](#) (often called H-EAT) is a state-level initiative in several U.S. states, **including Maryland**, that increases Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. By providing a small, nominal LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) payment, it allows households to qualify for the highest Standard Utility Allowance (SUA), thereby maximizing their monthly food benefits. ¹

The program ensures that households, particularly seniors and those with disabilities, can afford both utilities and food, as the higher utility deduction reduces countable income, thereby increasing the food assistance amount.

This bill expands the program into households based on additional categories that will qualify them for entry into the program.

This bill will make this happen by altering the eligibility requirements for the Heat and Eat Program within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services to require a household to include an elderly or disabled individual.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill SB#0461.

¹ Google AI Search “heat and eat program in snap”

