



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 218
Human Services - Food Supplements (Summer SNAP for Children Act)

TO: Chair King, and Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
FROM: Demaune A. Millard, President & CEO, Family League of Baltimore
DATE: February 6, 2019

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) supports Senate Bill 218, the “Summer SNAP for Children Act,” as a significant measure aimed at reducing food insecurity for children and families during the summer months. SB 218 would support families of school-aged children by providing \$30 per month, per child, in direct financial food assistance via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Nearly 1 in 4 residents in Baltimore City live in a food desert, an area defined as having limited access to healthy food.¹ Nearly 200,000 City residents depend on their SNAP benefits for access to nutritious food. A 2016 White House report identified the vital role that SNAP plays in relieving food insecurity for families and children, particularly in summer months when school meals are no longer available.² This program is not only supporting our families and communities, but it is also boosting revenue in many of Baltimore’s local grocery stores, markets, and the corner stores that are now stocking fresh produce and whole foods to address community needs. Individuals receiving SNAP benefits are not only more likely to move out of poverty,³ but they also tend to contribute to the wellbeing of local businesses. For every SNAP dollar spent, roughly \$1.79 is generated in local economic activity.⁴

As the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore, Family League’s mission is to serve as an architect of change in by promoting data-driven, collaborative initiatives and aligning resources to create lasting outcomes for children, families and communities. This work is guided by the State’s 8 Child Well-being Results Areas. We support SB 218 in particular due to its alignment with these result areas by working to ensure that “Families are Safe and Economically Stable.”⁵

We urge a favorable report on SB 218.

For more information contact Matt Quinlan, Public Policy Manager: mquinlan@familyleague.org

¹ Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (2015). “Mapping Baltimore City’s Food Environment: 2015 Report.”

² Presidential Council of Economic Advisors (2015). “Long-Term Benefits of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.”

³ Ibid.

⁴ Food Research & Action Center (2015). “SNAP/Food Stamp Participation Data.” <http://frac.org/reports-and-resources/snapfood-stamp-monthly-participation-data/>

⁵ Maryland Governor’s Office for Children. “Maryland’s Child Well-Being Scorecard.” <https://goc.maryland.gov/reportcard/>