



To: Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and House Ways and Means Committee

From: The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland

Re: Support for House Bill 1450 – Education – Food Waste Grant Program – Established

Date: March 6, 2020

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland is a coalition of non-profits, community groups, advocates, faith communities, and public agencies that was founded in 2008. The Partnership works to increase food security and leveraging nutrition programs is our key strategy. We focus on enhancing food access through school breakfast, school lunch, afterschool meals, and summer meals, as well as the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program, Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), Women, Infants and Children’s Program (WIC) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger urges your support of House Bill 1450 – Food Waste Grant Program. This bill would establish a grant program to county boards and public schools to reduce food waste by supporting environmental education to students, composting school foods, and diverting safe, uneaten school foods to local food banks or families.

In the state of Maryland, 10.4% of households are food insecure (USDA, 2015-2017). Food insecure households experience limited or uncertain access to safe, nutritious food at some point during the year. This program would support the Maryland families who experience food insecurity by expanding resources available to food banks.

The Partnership to End Childhood Hunger **urges a favorable report** on House Bill 1450.

Respectfully submitted by The Policy Committee of the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland. Please contact Policy Committee Chair, Noora Kanfash, at nkanfash@strength.org if you have any questions.

Members of the Policy Committee of the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland

Advocates for Children and Youth • Capital Area Food Bank • Critical Issues Forum • Family League of Baltimore
Maryland Association for Elementary School Principals • Maryland Farmers Market Association
Maryland Food Bank • Maryland Hunger Solutions • Maryland Out of School Time Network
Maryland PTA • Montgomery County Food Council • Share Our Strength – No Kid Hungry Maryland
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore