



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

January 25, 2023

SB 124
Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Senate Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee

Position: Support

The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 124 establishes the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council in the Office of Resilience in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management and alters the process for electing a cochair of the Council.

U.S. bishops reiterated that a primary goal of food and agricultural policy should be providing basic food and nutrition for all. In *Food Policy in a Hungry World*, the bishops called for strengthening the domestic food assistance programs to ensure that no one in America goes hungry or suffers malnutrition. "*When the economy fails to provide the jobs and income necessary to prevent hunger and malnutrition, the various local, state, and national food assistance programs must be funded and expanded to provide food to all in need*". Thus, Senate Bill 124 seeks to promote the basic right to enough food to sustain a life with dignity.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 124.