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BILL NO.: SB 559

TITLE: Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Annual Appropriation

SPONSOR: Senator Guzzone

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 22, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 559 – Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program - Annual Appropriation. This vital legislation would provide enhanced funding for the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program.

No student should be left to attend school on an empty stomach. Students who do not receive proper nutrition generally score lower on exams, struggle more to pay attention in class, and overall experience lower quality of life. Students who cannot afford to purchase breakfast are left at a significant disadvantage which threatens their ability to perform and break out of the cycle of poverty. As a father and a former educator, Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski is committed to ensuring each and every student has their fundamental needs met.

Senate Bill 559 would significantly expand the availability of free meals to students by raising funds for the Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program. If passed, this legislation would change the lives of students across the State who struggle with food insecurity. This is a significant step towards eliminating the barriers that keep Maryland's students from reaching their full potential.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 559. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.