



March 10, 2023

**Senate Bill 562**

**Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program - Establishment**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 562 - Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program - Establishment. This bill will establish the Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program in the Department of Human Services and mandate a \$3 million funding level for the program.

Anne Arundel County residents are already struggling with the termination of the enhanced Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits provided by the federal government during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our food banks are seeing high levels of demand and have already communicated that they have expended existing resources. Food security is important always, but especially at this time when all of us are struggling to accommodate rising costs in our family budgets. The fiscal cliff created by the sudden expiration of SNAP benefits creates an additional burden for our most vulnerable populations.

Although this bill will not entirely solve the demand for food resources, these funds are desperately needed by our food bank partners. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 562.