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BILL NO.: **SB 562**

TITLE: Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program - Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator Guzzone

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 30, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 562 – Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program – Establishment. This legislation would establish the Maryland Small Food Banks Grant Program.

Despite pandemic recovery efforts, food insecurity has continued to increase due to record inflation and a lack of increasing wages. The prevalence of food deserts across the State of Maryland has only served to compound with affordability challenges. As a result, disadvantaged residents have little opportunity to purchase nutritious foods, particularly without a means to travel to an area with a fresh food supermarket. Baltimore County has invested significant resources in its small food banks to ensure no resident goes hungry, and welcomes the State’s partnership.

Senate Bill 562 would provide up to \$3 million in support of small food banks with reliable track records across the State of Maryland. This critical assistance will strengthen the work that small food banks undertake each and every day to make sure our communities have access to adequate nutrition.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 562. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.