

FAV



2024 **HB0358** and 2024 **SB0151**

Position: **Support**

Background:

For the past 35 years, Food & Friends has been providing freshly prepared, home-delivered medically tailored meals, groceries and nutrition counseling to individuals living with illnesses such as cancer, kidney disease and HIV/AIDS. We were founded in 1988 by residents of Washington D.C. who wanted to take care of their neighbors with AIDS, and last year we home-delivered almost 1.9 million meals to nearly 5,000 people across the DMV – almost 800,000 of those meals to over 2,300 Maryland residents. In Prince George’s County we delivered 495,682 medically tailored meals, groceries and medical nutrition therapy to 1,393 clients and their dependents.

We know from research that medically tailored meals improve health outcomes while reducing healthcare costs for those with multiple serious and chronic illnesses. We rely on 70 staff and a network of over 4,500 volunteers to complete our work each year. A community-based organization in the truest sense of the word.

Why we support HB0358, SB0151 and the Workgroup on Health and Wellness:

Health data from Prince George’s County Health Department shows a need for coordinated response to address inequities in the health of residents, including high incidence of diabetes, heart disease, renal disease, maternal health issues and limited healthcare access. Our many years of talking with residents and caring directly for them and their families gives us insight that a coordinated effort is needed to review and evaluate health and wellness practices, programs, services, and resources in the county to improve the health of county residents.

Carrie Stoltzfus
Executive Director

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