



RELEASE: Maryland Leads the Country in New Initiative to Fight Childhood Hunger During Summer and Winter Break

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Annapolis, MD – Maryland is leading the country with a new solution to remedy the unacceptable reality of child hunger. Senator Cory McCray and Delegate Pam Queen championed the Summer SNAP for Children Act (SB 218/HB 338), which recently passed the legislature. No Kid Hungry Maryland, the Critical Issues Forum, and the Family League of Baltimore applaud the Maryland General Assembly for passing this bill to ensure that children have access to the nutrition they need when school is out of session during the summer and winter breaks.

“Summer SNAP for Children will reduce poverty and hunger for vulnerable children in Maryland,” said Kevin Large, Director of No Kid Hungry Maryland. “We thank all members of the Maryland General Assembly for their work to expand access to healthy food throughout the summer and winter school break. We especially want to recognize lead sponsors Senator McCray and Delegate Queen as well as Chairwoman King, Chairwoman McIntosh and Delegate Korman. No Kid Hungry Maryland is committed to ending childhood hunger and ensuring that all Maryland kids get to grow up healthy, happy, and strong. Summer SNAP for Children is an important step in right direction.”

“Maryland’s innovative *Summer SNAP for Children* will provide a \$30 monthly cash benefit for food to low-income children during the summer months and \$10 during winter break to reduce food insecurity and improve the diets of low-income children,” said Steven Mandel, Co-Chair of the Critical Issues Forum. The Critical Issues Forum is comprised of three synagogues located in Montgomery County that advocates for effective solutions to food insecurity and hunger in Maryland.

“We are fortunate to have leaders like Senator McCray and his steadfast commitment to the children and families of our City, and House sponsor Delegate Queen for her leadership on this issue,” said Demaune Millard, President and CEO of the Family League of Baltimore.

Nearly 1 in 4 residents in Baltimore City live in a food desert, and nearly 200,000 City residents depend on their SNAP benefits for access to nutritious food.

“The new Summer SNAP for Children program will help to further close the food insecurity gap for families and children, particularly in summer months when school meals are no longer available. The program will also serve as a path toward economic vitality by growing the market share of Baltimore’s local grocery stores and neighborhood markets that provide fresh produce to our communities. We look forward to supporting the new Summer SNAP for Children program and hope to see sustained local and state investment in the program over the years,” Millard added.

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About Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign

No child should go hungry in America. But 1 in 6 kids will face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger through effective programs that provide kids with the food they need. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization working to end hunger and poverty.

Join us at NoKidHungry.org.

About the Critical Issues Forum

The mission of the Critical Issues Forum: Advocacy for Social Justice (CIF) is to advocate for solutions to societal issues consistent with Jewish values. Currently, CIF is focusing on food insecurity in Montgomery County and elsewhere in Maryland, where it impacts thousands of residents of all nationalities and ages. CIF is comprised of Temple Beth Ami, Kol Shalom, and Adat Shalom and represents more than 1,750 households and three denominations of Judaism: Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist.

About Family League of Baltimore

Family League of Baltimore (Family League) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the designated Local Management Board for the City of Baltimore. Since 1991, it has served as an architect of change in Baltimore by promoting data-driven, collaborative initiatives and aligning resources to create lasting outcomes for children, families and communities. Stewardship, performance, trust, respect, innovation, and equity are the core values that guide its work. In Fiscal Year 2018, Family League provided more than \$13 million to 73 funded partners.