



Making a Difference with your Politician

Delegate Pam Queen

Youth Activism

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION



GET TO KNOW LEGISLATORS

Local Focus



One hundred and eighty-eight men and women are elected *every four years* to serve in the *State's legislative branch* to enact laws that *protect the interest of Marylanders*

UNDERSTAND THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Maryland General Assembly

• HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES

- Appropriations Committee
- Economic Matters Committee
- Environment and Transportation Committee
- Health & Government Operations Committee
- Judiciary Committee
- Rules & Executive Nominations Committee
- Ways & Means Committee

• SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

- Budget & Taxation Committee
- Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
- Executive Nominations Committee
- Finance Committee
- Judicial Proceedings Committee
- Rules Committee

COMMUNICATE THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Why is *this* Law Needed

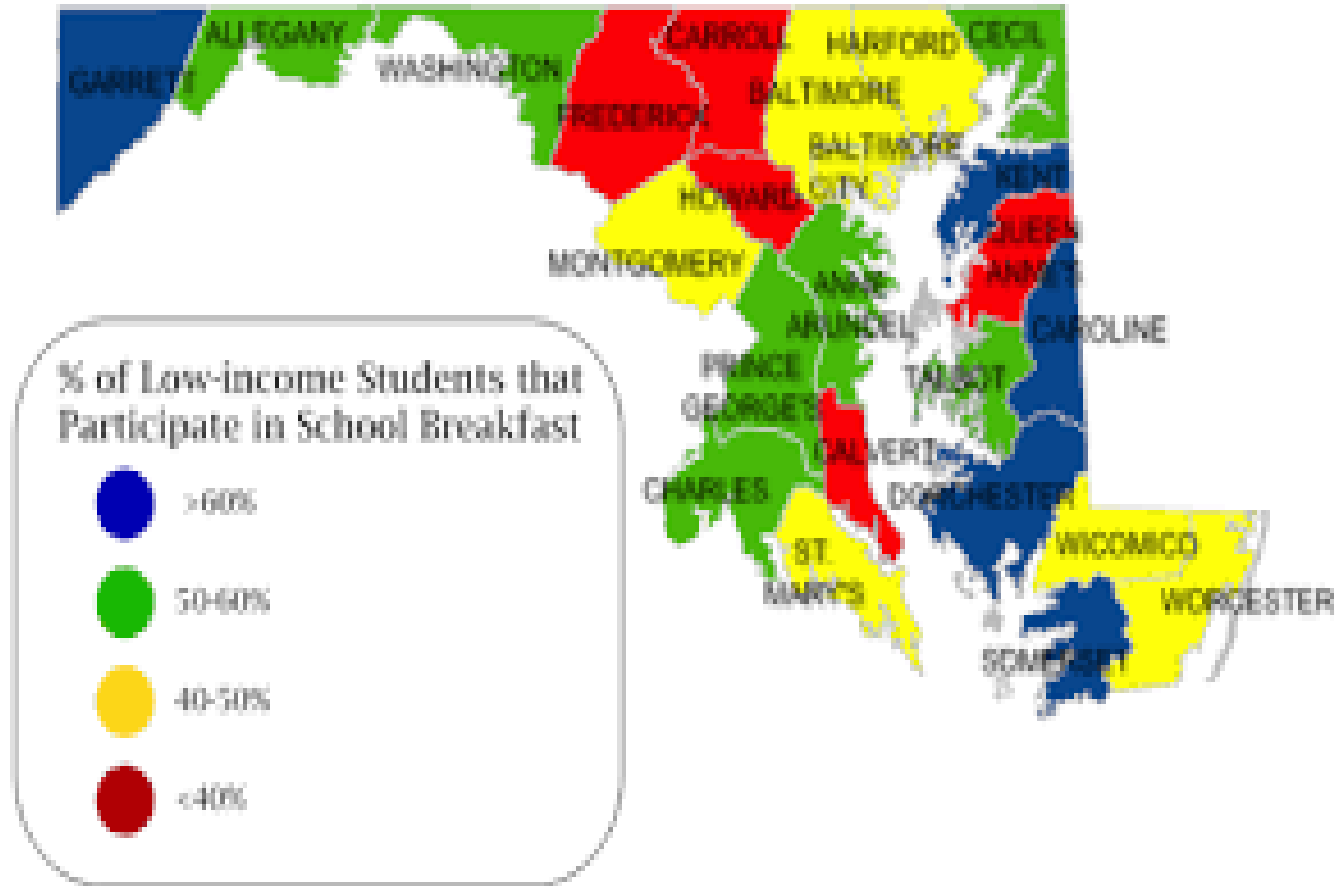
- Harm Principle
 - Protect people from harm
- Parental Principle
 - Protect people from self-harm
- Morality Principle
 - Advocate for a sense of morality
- Donation Principle
 - Provide services and commodities
- Statist Principle
 - Protect the government; keep government functioning



UNDERSTAND THE ISSUE

Know the Data

- In Maryland, 20% of households with children are *food insecure*, meaning they don't have reliable access to enough food to provide healthy meals for their family.
- The negative impacts of food insecurity - *adverse health, poor academic performance, developmental impairments, social and behavioral problems.*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg-LZW0lePw>

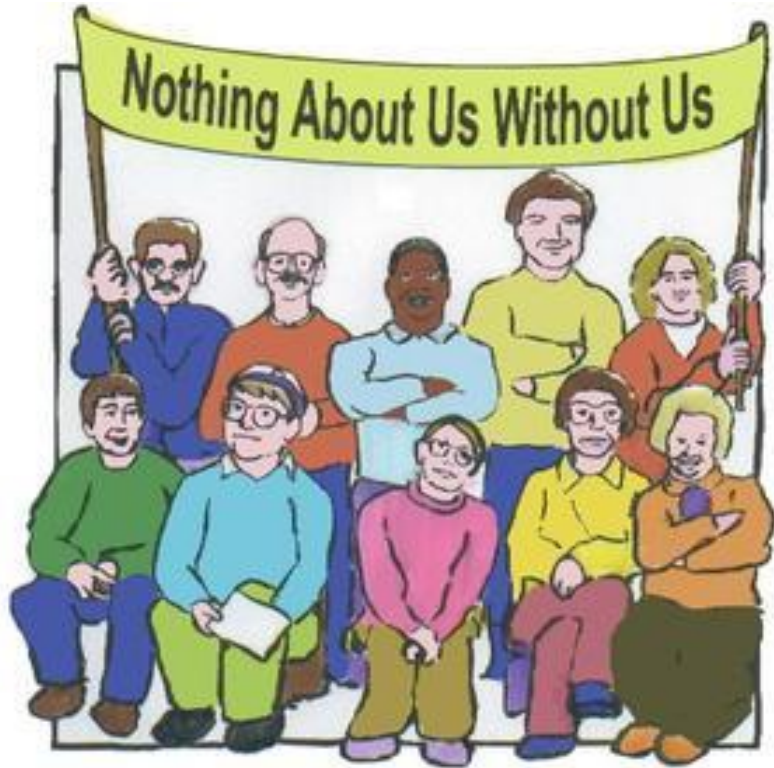
2018 MGA

FOOD INSECURITY LEGISLATION

- HB007/SB182 – Tax Credit: Venison Donation Feed the Hungry
- HB315 – Breakfast and Lunch Program(Maryland Cares for Kids Act)
- HB806 – Summer Meals Grant Pilot
- HB1432 – Food Stamps Summer Supplement

COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS

Make a specific 'ASK'



- Understand Pros and Cons
- Be Aware of Unintended Consequences
- Know Proponents and Opponents Viewpoint

WAYS TO ADVOCATE

Help Pass Legislation

- Lobby Week versus Lobby Day
- Testify at Committee Meetings
- Organize and Speak at Rallies
- Meet with Legislators
- Write Letters to Legislators
- Attend Forums and Public Hearings
- Get Media Involved



GET INVOLVED

- **High School Page Program**

- Maryland High School Seniors
- Work two (2) non-consecutive weeks
- Pay \$55 per day; lodging is \$25 per day
- Apply via High School in September
- <http://dls.state.md.us/Content.aspx?page=65>

- **College Intern Program**

- Work day – 9:00am – 5:00pm
- Work 90-day Session
- Range from \$2,000 per session (5 days per week) to \$ 850 per session (2 days per week)
- Apply via MGA Intern Office at 410-946-5128





BE
A
VOICE!

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frm1st.aspx?tab=home>
http://dls.state.md.us/data/libandinfer/libandinfer_docandpub/Legislative-Process.pdf