

February 20, 2023

2023 Session Support Testimony

HB0514/SB0559: Education - Maryland Meals for Achievement In-Classroom Breakfast Program
- Annual Appropriation

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: Testimony of Support for House Bill 514

BILL ANALYSIS: Fully funds the Maryland Meals For Achievement Program for in-classroom breakfast

SIGNED: Maryland Food System Resiliency Council (FRSC)

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record **in SUPPORT of H.B. 0514**. This letter is submitted by the Co-Chair of the Maryland Food System Resiliency Council (FSRC) on behalf of the Council and does not necessarily represent the views of the State of Maryland. The FSRC was established by the Maryland General Assembly in the 2021 legislative session to bring together 33 appointed council members from across the state, all with different points of entry and expertise, to work towards a common goal of a more resilient food system and address the food insecurity crisis due to COVID-19. One of the key mandates of this council was to develop equity and sustainability policy recommendations to increase the long-term resiliency of the Maryland food system.

The FSRC believes this legislation will advance the goal of ensuring that all eligible schools will be able to provide in classroom breakfast. Providing breakfast in the classroom ensures that breakfast is available for all students, helping to reduce food insecurity, increase nutrition, and eliminates the stigma associated with before the bell programs. We urge a favorable report for H.B. 514.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wilson
Chair, Communications and Coordination Committee of the
Food System Resilience Council