

Dear Council President Fani-Gonzalez and Councilmembers,

As a 43-year resident of Montgomery County (district 6), a supporter of Shepherd's Table, and a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, I am writing to urge you to support the following essential elements of a budget that would alleviate the worst of the hunger that has grown in our county in recent years:

- Allocate an additional \$3.5 million to OFSR (the Office of Food Systems Resilience),
- support enhancement of the Food Systems Education Grant, and
- do NOT cut the Retail Food Access Program or the Food as Medicine Grants.

My church contributes to two area food pantries, but what we can give is a drop in the bucket compared to the need. There is no reason why, in a wealthy county like ours, people should go hungry! I am fortunate to be able to afford good food myself, but as a person of faith, and as someone who briefly experienced hunger as a young woman, I feel that food assistance for low-income residents is one of the best uses that can be made of my taxes. Please make it possible for people who **work** here to **live** here without hardship, without having to choose between paying for food, rent, or medicine.

Sincerely,

Lillian Luksenburg



Wheaton MD 20902-1566