



# Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

## MSCAN

AARP Maryland

Alzheimer's  
Association,  
Maryland Chapters

Baltimore Jewish  
Council

Catholic Charities

Central Maryland  
Ecumenical Council

Church of the Brethren

Episcopal Diocese of  
Maryland

Housing Opportunities  
Commission of  
Montgomery County

Jewish Community  
Relations Council of  
Greater Washington

Lutheran Office on  
Public Policy in  
Maryland

Maryland Association of  
Area Agencies on Aging

Maryland Catholic  
Conference

Mental Health  
Association of Maryland

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

National Association of  
Social Workers,  
Maryland Chapter

Presbytery of Baltimore

The Coordinating  
Center

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## **Testimony in Support of HB498 - Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs – Funding House Appropriations Committee February 11, 2020**

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing and care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN enthusiastically supports HB4998 for its potential to positively impact the lives of frail seniors who want to safely age-in-place in their own communities. The bill would fund the NANA ACT in the Department of Aging at \$1 million dollars. This funding would be dedicated to expanding existing successful programs currently operated by caring non-profit organizations with a one-to-one match for new dollars. It would also allow other non-profits in underserved areas of the state to apply for new grants without a match requirement. Lastly, it would have a 10% carve-out for senior villages. These organizations would provide the vital services to enable frail seniors to help them stay in their homes -- services such as in-home personal care for cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation as well as transportation to doctor's appointments and other medical services.

These grants are also extremely cost-effective. With the cost of nursing home care in 2018 at \$89,967 per year, the NANA grants would help to keep seniors out of nursing homes at a fraction of the cost. We all know that seniors don't want to go to nursing homes. They want to stay at home in their communities. The NANA grant would help make this wish come true.

The NANA grant program would also assist the local Area Agencies on Aging who could partner with the non-profits in expanding aging-in-place within their jurisdictions. Cooperation and coordination between the non-profit organizations and the AAA's would help ensure that these grants are available to all eligible seniors.

The NANA grant program would expand resources to non-profits to enable them to assist more health-impaired seniors to live independently in their homes for as long as possible.

MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report on HB498. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.