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Winands Road Synagogue Center
Zionist Organization of America
  Baltimore District

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 498 - Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs - Funding

Appropriations - February 11, 2020

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 498 (HB498) would mandate at least $1 million in funding in the Governor's annual budget for the Nonprofits For Our Aging Neighbors (NANA) program under the Department of Aging. Funds would be awarded to nonprofit organizations and area agencies on aging to either expand existing aging-in-place programs or spur the development of new ones. Existing aging-in-place programs would be required to provide a minimum one-to-one match for the funding received. New innovative programs would not be required to provide a match. Aging-in-place programs are defied as ones that "enable an individual to live in the individual's own home and community safely." Additionally, 10% of this funding will be dedicated towards senior village programs.

Written Comments: By 2035 one in three U.S. households will be headed by someone 65 or older. Maryland's need for aging-in-place services will grow exponentially in just the next few years. The Baltimore Jewish Council represents The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore and all of its agencies, including Jewish Community Services (JCS) and Comprehensive Housing Assistance Inc. (CHAI). They are just two of the many organizations that this funding can potentially help to expand their capacity to serve Maryland's rapidly aging population. Other organizations would also have the ability to create new aging-in-place programs. When seniors have the freedom and support to age-in-place, they are able to live comfortable and dignified lives – a benefit to themselves, their families and their communities. NANA funding would allow seniors in all parts of the state to have access to quality aging in place services.

With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report on HB498.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.