



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*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:
Carol Lienhard
Kimberly Burton
443-901-1550 x 210*

Testimony in Support of SB 918 with Amendments, Human Services – Trauma-Informed Care – Commission and Training

Senate Finance Committee

March 6, 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. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for SB 918 with amendments.

Older Marylanders of low income who are struggling with housing and health care needs have higher rates of trauma in their histories than older Marylanders who are not having those struggles. Members of MSCAN firmly believe that public services targeting older adults need to be trauma informed, just as they should be for children and youth. We believe that SB 918 should be amended in the following ways in order to best serve and protect Maryland's older adults.

AMENDMENTS:

- Include the Maryland Department of Aging among the list of other State agencies that are involved in the tasks of the commission and which will benefit from trauma-informed training.
- Define and add "older adults" to places in the bill that specify target populations.
- Add "one licensed geriatric mental health clinician with expertise in trauma" to the commission.

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) required nursing homes to become trauma-informed and to provide trauma training to staff. This was done in recognition of the high rates of trauma among the nursing home resident population and the fact that services are more efficacious when they are not re-traumatizing. In Maryland, assisted living regulations are following suit. Given the push for "aging in place", Maryland needs to ensure that community based programs serving older adults are trauma informed.

Members of MSCAN respectfully and strongly urge the Committee's favorable report on SB 918 with amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 918.