



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 on Bill SB 505

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Department of Aging - Dementia Care Coordinator and Dementia Care Navigation Programs

February 24, 2022

Finance Committee

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, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports this legislation, which requires an ongoing appropriation to support dementia caregiving at each of Maryland's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), who would be mandated to create a dementia care navigation (DCN) program.

This program would be responsible for providing:

- support for family caregivers, including assistance with care planning and connections to support groups and education;
- aid in the development of dementia-friendly communities, including outreach events and professional consultations;
- and work to offer cognitive screenings, to help identify individuals with dementia.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) will be required to distribute funding (via grants) to each AAA, based on a formula which considers the number of people with dementia in each county.

MSCAN does ask for one amendment. In considering the formula, we believe it would be best if the Assembly—in its wisdom—considers codifying a baseline amount for each county. While the amount distributed among counties can and should definitely vary, as each region has different numbers of people with dementia, it is vital that no one county be shortchanged in its efforts. And that even the smallest counties have the opportunity and means to implement this mandate.

Thanks again for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge a favorable report, with this amendment included.