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**SB 202 Department of Aging-Caregiver Expense Grant Program-  
Established  
FAVORABLE  
House Appropriations Committee  
March 27, 2024**

Good afternoon, Chair Barnes and members of the House Appropriations Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan, Senior Director of Advocacy, and resident of Anne Arundel County. AARP MD advocates on behalf of two million Marylanders age 50 and over. AARP MD supports SB 202 Department of Aging- Caregiver Expense Grant Program – Established. We thank Senator Benson sponsoring this important legislation.

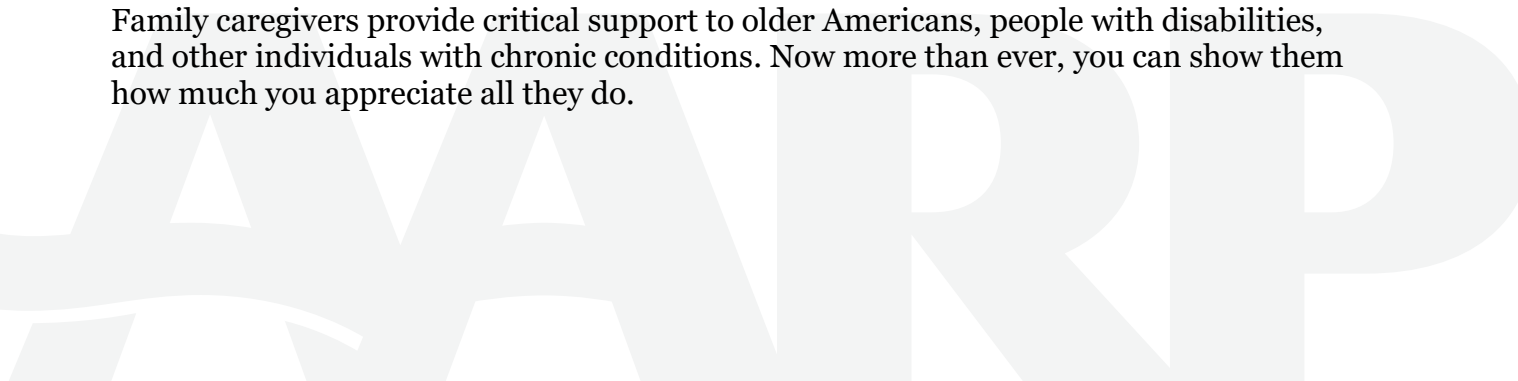
AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans aged 50 and older and their families. Key priorities of our organization include helping all Marylanders achieve financial and health security and supporting safety net for seniors and low-income households in the state of Maryland is a priority.

SB 202 establishes the Caregiver Expense Grant Program in the Department of Aging to award grants to some caregivers for qualified expenses paid or incurred during a taxable year by the caregivers to provide care or support to a qualified family member.

In 2023, AARP’s report “Valuing the Invaluable” estimated the total cost of uncompensated care by a family caregiver in Maryland to be \$ \$12 million. Additionally, that same report indicated that a family caregiver spends over 660 hours per year caring for a loved one. Today’s family caregivers come from every age, racial, and socioeconomic group, and include both men and women.

In addition to helping with daily activities, family caregivers frequently coordinate access to services and supports and provide complex health care. Many do all of this on top of managing their own lives, jobs, and often those of other family members—others must give up their employment and only source of income to meet these demands.

Family caregivers provide critical support to older Americans, people with disabilities, and other individuals with chronic conditions. Now more than ever, you can show them how much you appreciate all they do.



We ask, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 202. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at [tbresnahan@arp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@arp.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.