



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 SB 202 – Income Tax – Caregivers Tax Credit House Appropriations Committee Wednesday, March 27, 2024

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 strongly supports SB 202 to provide a Caregiver's Tax Credit. All of our member organizations provide support to family caregivers and are touched by their devotion to their loved ones and how hard they work to keep them at home where they really want to be.

The statistics regarding the importance of caregiving are staggering. In Maryland 760,000 family members provide over 710,000,000 hours of uncompensated care valued at more than \$12.5 billion dollars each year. 40% of Maryland adults provide regular caregiving support to a loved one, 57% of caregivers are women and 25% of caregivers spend at least 20 hours per week of support to their loved ones. The economic impact of caregiving disproportionately affects lower income minorities and women who may have to forgo wages in order to provide care.

Often at great personal and emotional cost to themselves, family caregivers save the state millions of dollars in unnecessary hospitalizations and nursing placements. Without support, caregivers themselves can burn out and SB 202 would provide modest, but important relief.

While it is clear that SB 202 would have a fiscal impact as it provides some tax relief to family caregivers, the bill could actually save the State money. The current cost of nursing home placement for one senior is over \$120,000. If we allow just 150 of Maryland's 760,000 family caregivers to burn out for lack of support, it could result in nursing home placements costing taxpayers over \$18 million dollars!

As Maryland's aging population continues to grow, there is increasing need to support our family caregivers. For all of these reasons, MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 202. Thank you for your consideration.