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incorporated affiliates of AARP*

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**House Appropriations Committee**, House Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the AARP Suitland Maryland Chapter #939 to express our strong support for the approval of SB202 – Department of Aging – Caregiver Expense Grant Program - Established.

This bill, if passed, establishes the Caregiver Expense Grant Program under the Maryland Department of Aging to provide grants to certain caretakers to cover the expenses they pay or incur while caring for their family members.

This bill would significantly ease the financial burden on these caregivers, many of whom are seniors themselves or are caring for elderly family members. The proposed grant program would not only recognize the invaluable contributions of these caregivers but also provide them with much-needed financial relief.

Please find enclosed testimonies from various individuals who have been directly impacted by the issues SB202 addresses. Some of these testimonies pertain to an earlier version of SB202 related to tax credits for Maryland caregivers, while others address HB32, the House version of the earlier Senate bill recommending tax credits for caregivers. We believe these personal stories are entirely relevant to SB202's proposed grant program for caregivers and underscore the urgent need to pass SB202.

We kindly request that you give this bill your full consideration and support its passage. The approval of SB202 would be a significant step forward in supporting Maryland's family caregivers and would set a positive precedent for other states to follow.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Williamson, President (Acting)  
AARP Suitland Maryland Chapter #939

Cc Tammy Bresnahan, Associate Director of Advocacy, AARP Maryland