



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*

Testimony in Support of SB 197- Homecare Worker Rights Act of 2024

Finance Committee

February 8, 2024

Support

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 SB197 which would ensure that home care workers who work for residential service agencies (RSAs) are properly classified as employees, instead of independent contractors under certain Medicaid programs.

Homecare workers are often illegally classified as independent contractors under certain Medicaid programs. These important members of society, who generally make minimum wage, are left out of vital safety net programs and protections, like sick leave, health insurance and workers compensation when they are classified as independent contractors. In addition, these workers pay higher self-employment tax.

Even though this practice is illegal, it is a persistent problem in Maryland. This bill offers a simple fix, by providing that RSAs will only be reimbursed for in-home personal care under certain Medicaid programs if those who do the work are classified as employees.

For the reasons stated above, MSCAN urges a favorable report on SB197.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Mücke
410-542-4850

