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The Health and Government Operations Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 240
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 16, 2024

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the Village to Village Network (VtVN) in support of the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program bill. VtVN is the national nonprofit association representing the 275 open and 70 developing Villages throughout the US and Canada, that make up the National Village Movement. VtVN represents 21 Villages in the State of Maryland and we're honored to have counted Miriam Kelty as one of our earliest supporters.

We commend your proposed legislation's intent to support a pilot hub and spoke model of Village management. Such a model can offer helpful efficiencies for growing and sustaining Villages. That said, we hope that if opportunities arise to amend your bill, you consider adding language that targets rural, low income, diverse and/or underserved communities throughout the state for expanding the reach of Villages in Maryland.

VtVN stands ready to support the Maryland Department of Aging on projects to encourage Village development across the State. We believe that Villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults, which can help them thrive in their communities.

Many thanks for your consideration of HB 1103 and we urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Barbara H. Sullivan
Executive Director