

Testimony to the Health & Government Operations Committee
February 22,2024
On behalf of Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA)
In support of HB1103.
Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program
Submitted by Elizabeth Carrier

My name is Elizabeth Carrier and I serve on the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) and I am a founder of the Bradley Hills Village in Bethesda. The CoA submitted written testimony and supports HB1103-the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

The proposed “hub and spoke” project is intended to assist in the growth of villages in diverse and lower income communities and to ensure the sustainability and efficiency of existing villages. This pilot will centralize tasks so that member villages can maintain and grow services and events as well as share their expertise. The pilot can make a very important contribution to learning, testing, and developing best practices for the hub and spoke model of village management. This innovative model can offer insights across Maryland and help the Maryland Department of Aging with their mission to make Maryland Longevity Ready.

Currently there are 30 villages in Montgomery County. They have achieved outstanding results and have a shared goal to reduce social isolation and provide volunteer help to seniors aging in place. However, villages in diverse and lower income communities need start-up support to achieve these results.

The CoA believes that villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults and can help them thrive in their communities. Testing and providing additional administrative support in a hub and spoke model will be a vital way to expand the village movement and help older adults age in place.

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Submitted on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging: The Commission is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise Montgomery County government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels.

Additional questions contact:

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