

Darrin R. Smith
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January 20th, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Letter of Support for SB0223 with Amendments to Enhance Senior Call Check Vitality

Dear Honorable Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 0223, which addresses the expansion of the Senior Call Check program to improve the welfare of our senior citizen populations from the comfort of their own home. As the former Vice Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Board of Telecommunication, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role this program plays in ensuring the safety and well-being of our state's senior citizens.

SB0223 represents an important step towards enhancing the Senior Call Check program. However, I believe its impact can be significantly amplified by incorporating the following amendments:

- **Ensure Continued, Stable Funding:** The success of the Senior Call Check program hinges on consistent and adequate funding. I urge the legislature to consider **eliminating the cap** on program funding and to ensure the allocation of **continued, stable funding streams** to support program expansion and technological advancements.
- **Address the Unique Needs of Seniors and the Deaf Population:**
 - **Seniors:** The program should be actively promoted among seniors, with a focus on outreach and education initiatives.
 - **Deaf Population:** Recognizing the communication barriers faced by deaf seniors, the program should explore the integration of alternative communication methods, such as video relay services and text-based check-in systems.

By incorporating these amendments, SB0223 can be strengthened to better serve the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. I urge you to give this legislation your full consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Darrin R. Smith - Former Vice Chairman, Governor's Advisory Board of Telecommunication