



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Pamela Beidle  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 212 – Department of Aging – Aging Services – Program Repeal and Consolidation – Letter of Support**

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 212 – *Department of Aging – Aging Services – Program Repeal and Consolidation*. SB 212 authorizes the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) to implement and coordinate services for older adults and collaborate with county agencies, area agencies on aging and non-profit organizations or others that establish local interagency committees. MDOA is also required to establish, coordinate and supervise a program to provide single points of entry within each planning area.

MDH served more than 138,768 individuals aged 65 and older through the Medical Assistance Program in 2024. MDH covers nursing facility services as required by Federal law and offers eight 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs that serve targeted populations including medically fragile children with chronic illnesses, aged adults, and individuals with disabilities. While Medical Assistance provides a full set of long term services and supports, individuals must be significantly disabled and meet financial requirements to qualify for coverage. Demand for these services as Maryland's population ages is expected to grow, putting additional pressure on the state budget in time.

In 2024, MDH and Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) received technical assistance through ADvancing States to identify opportunities to redesign Maryland's system of care for older adults. Core recommendations of the technical assistance received was to improve coordination of community-based supports available through MDOA and other local agencies. Further, the technical assistance recommended that these programs be consolidated in order to more fully address the needs of older adults across the long term services and support continuum of care. MDH looks forward to the continued strong partnership with MDOA to ensure that more older adults can more easily access community-based support for Marylanders to remain at home longer. This will prevent decline in their health, and ultimately, slow their need to access safety-net services through Medical Assistance.

The Department is supportive of SB 212 with the clarifying amendment MDOA is offering, which confirms MDOA's intent to collaborate with area agencies on aging and other stakeholders post-passage on the details of the new program's eligibility and regulations.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott", is positioned above the typed name.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary