



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

NAACAP- Maryland

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

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Testimony in Support of SB 212 – Department of Aging – Aging Services – Program Repeal and Consolidation Senate Finance Committee January 22, 2025

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 and care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN commends the Department of Aging for leading the Governor's Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative as our state prepares for unprecedented growth in our senior population. With the pressure of limited budgets, it is important to maximize the use of every resource and this bill is an example of legislation designed to do just that.

SB 212 will combine three important state programs: Congregate Housing Services, the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy Program and Senior Care and enable the funds to be used to create specific person-centered packages of services for individuals to enable them to avoid premature institutionalization and to remain independent in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

These programs have always saved taxpayers money. With our current state budget deficit, the savings are even more important today. Current average cost of nursing home placement is a whopping \$133,502 per year. Compare that with the \$4,524/year average for a Senior Care client, \$3,000/year for Congregate Housing Services, and \$1,000 a month for the Assisted Living Subsidy!

For the Area Agencies on Aging who administer these programs, consolidation of the programs can have the benefit of reducing red tape and overhead burdens. But the greatest benefit is likely to be flexibility made possible to tailor services to the needs of each recipient and the resources available in each jurisdiction.

MSCAN would like to acknowledge that most of the seniors currently enrolled in Congregate Housing Services, the Senior Assisted Living Subsidy Program and Senior Care have likely waited years before they were eligible to receive services. For this reason, we hope that those enrolled at the time of transition into the consolidated program will be able to continue to receive those services.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.