



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill Number: House Bill 158

Title: Department of Aging - Social Connections Program - Establishment

Hearing Date: January 23, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports House Bill 158 - Department of Aging - Social Connections Program – Establishment. This bill renames the Senior Call-Check Service and Notification Program to be the Social Connections Program; establishes the Social Connections Program to provide certain communication to eligible older adults to promote wellness and purposeful social engagement; and authorizes the integration of services between the Program and Telecommunications Access of Maryland.

Occupational therapy practitioners strongly support the importance of social connection for older adults in maintaining overall health and well-being and mitigating the effects of isolation and loneliness, which can lead to cognitive decline, decreased physical activity, and poorer mental health. Essentially, social engagement is considered a crucial aspect of maintaining quality of life in aging individuals. MOTA supports volunteer community engagement connecting older adults with local community resources and activities that align with their interests.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.