



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk, Chair
House Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building 240
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON SB0212 - DEPARTMENT OF AGING - AGING SERVICES -
PROGRAM REPEAL AND CONSOLIDATION - POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 212 (SB 212).

With offices in every jurisdiction across Maryland, DHS empowers residents to achieve their full potential by offering preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment and career development opportunities. The Social Services Administration within our department implements the Adult Protective Services (APS) program which serves older adults which may benefit from SB 212.

The bill supports older adults recently subject to an Adult Protective Services (APS) investigation who require post-investigatory services. These services enable older adults to live independently, as safely as possible for as long as possible. Providing support for independent living delays or eliminates the need for costly and often overly restrictive nursing home care. Currently, there are very few options for Marylanders to safely age in place rather than costly and overly restrictive nursing home care. The Interagency Committee on Aging Services' administers three programs—Senior Care, Senior Assisted Living Subsidy, and Congregate Housing Services—which support older adults in their efforts to live independently, safely, and with dignity.

The bill enables more people to receive necessary services by transferring the Interagency Committee on Aging Services' responsibilities and administration of its three programs to the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA). Consolidating oversight and delivery of three state-funded programs under MDOA, will better enable the state to support Marylanders as they age. The consolidated delivery of the services under MDOA offers flexible spending across three program options, maximizing program resources through targeting specific needs and serving more older adults. The programs impacted by the bill are a lifeline for older adults, providing essential in-home and community-based support such as food assistance, laundry services, personal care, chore assistance, transportation, home repair or modifications, health services, adult day care, and caregiver support.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide favorable testimony to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Rachel Sledge, Director of Government Affairs, at rachel.sledge@maryland.gov.

In service,



Carnitra White
Principal Deputy Secretary