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**SB 223 Department of Aging - Senior Call-Check and Social Connections Program**  
**House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**Crossover Hearing**  
**March 20, 2025**  
**FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Peña-Melnyk and distinguished members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 223 Department of Aging Senior Call-Check and Social Connections Program**, as amended by the Senate. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of our more than two million Marylanders aged 50 and older, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on SB 223.

As we all know, social isolation among older adults is a growing concern, with significant implications for both physical and mental health. This bill's focus on transforming and expanding the existing Senior Call-Check Service and Notification Program into the Social Connections Program demonstrates a proactive commitment to fostering wellness and meaningful social engagement among older Marylanders.

SB 223 renames the Senior Call-Check Service and Notification Program to the Senior Call-Check and Social Connections Program. The purpose of the program is to provide regular, direct communication from the Department of Aging or its designee to eligible participants, promoting wellness and purposeful social engagement. Additionally, the bill authorizes the integration of services between the program and Telecommunications Access of Maryland to raise awareness of the availability of accessible telecommunications equipment.

We respectfully request a favorable report on SB 223. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.

