



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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**HB0036**

January 23, 2025

**TO:** Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 36 - Department of Aging - Aging Services - Program Repeal and Consolidation

**POSITION: Support**

Chair Peña-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports House Bill (HB) 36.**

HB 36 re-organizes three programs serving older adults with disabilities administered by the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA): Senior Care, Senior Assisted Living Subsidy, and Congregate Housing. Total annual funding for these three programs is \$21 million.

These programs were established in the 1970's and 1980's and have never been significantly altered. HB 36 will merge them into one program entitled "Supporting Older Adults with Resources" (SOAR), remove cumbersome administrative structures, and expand the range of services that can be provided with State funding. The result will be more efficient use of State funds and more services for older adults seeking to avoid nursing home placement.

Baltimore City Health Department Division of Aging and Community Support, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Baltimore City, administers the Senior Care and Senior Assisted Living Subsidy programs in the City; nonprofit partners such as Maryland Catholic Charities receive grants from MDoA to provide the congregate housing program. Each of these programs has its own set of policies and/or regulations, application forms, and reporting requirements, even though the populations they serve have the same characteristics: low to moderate income older adults at risk of institutionalization. HB 36 consolidates and streamlines the three programs, reducing the administrative burden on the AAAs like BCHD and its nonprofit partners. It also expands the range of services available to the older consumers in the program; more people will be served at less cost.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 36.