



## COMMISSION ON AGING

March 3, 2026

Finance Committee  
Chair, Senator Pamela Beidle  
Vice Chair, Senator Antonio Hayes  
Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **SB 0530 SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Beidle and Vice Chair Hayes:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging, we are writing in strong support of SB0530, *Aging-in-Place Programs – Grants – Multigenerational Third Places (The Village Multigenerational Third Places Act)*, sponsored by Senator Shelly Hettleman.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging was established in 1974 and is authorized by the Older Americans Act to advise county government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state, and national levels. We believe SB0530 represents an important and timely evolution of the Village model. Villages demonstrate that older adults thrive when they are socially connected, supported by neighbors, and able to remain active participants in their communities. However, many Villages—particularly those serving diverse and lower-income communities—face persistent barriers to accessing affordable, welcoming spaces where members can gather, build relationships, and connect across generations.

The concept of multigenerational third places directly addresses this challenge. By authorizing grant funding to support social connection through events and gatherings in shared community spaces outside the home or workplace, SB0530 strengthens Villages and expands their reach. These spaces foster inclusion, reduce social isolation, and create meaningful opportunities for engagement across generations—an approach that is especially critical in underserved areas where traditional Village infrastructure or dedicated meeting space may not exist.

The bill's flexibility to support operational and administrative costs, as well as short-term or long-term leases, will enable aging-in-place programs and senior Villages to establish sustainable hubs for engagement. These hubs can serve as anchors for social connection, volunteer coordination, educational programming, and partnerships with other community

**Department of Health and Human Services**

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organizations. This flexibility is essential to equitable expansion of aging-in-place supports across Maryland.

SB0530 aligns with the goal of making Maryland a longevity-ready state by strengthening community infrastructure and supporting innovative models that reflect how people live and connect today. Multigenerational third places are not a departure from the Village movement; they are a natural and necessary next step in its evolution. We appreciate Senator Hettleman's leadership on this important issue and thank the Committee for its continued commitment to policies that help older adults remain engaged, connected, and supported in their communities.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Commission on Aging urges a favorable report on SB0530.

Sincerely,  
Linda Bergofsky and Wayne Berman, Co-Chairs  
Montgomery County Commission on Aging