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Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#/0113- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)

TO: Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0113, **Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**

The Longevity Ready Maryland Act is a ten-year plan to Create a Resilient Infrastructure for a Growing Population of Older Adults in Maryland.

Maryland is at a demographic crossroads. Longer lives and declining birth rates have introduced a significant shift in how our current systems will need to function as the growing number of older adults continues to expand. With both challenges and opportunities to prepare for, LRM is taking Maryland beyond traditional approaches to aging services to better address the multifaceted priorities that 21st-century communities are facing through a whole-of-government approach built on four [Epic Goals](#).¹

This bill will assist in these efforts by requiring the Secretary of Aging to lead implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan which is a multisector plan on aging that transforms programs, services, policies, institutions, and systems to address the growing population of older adults in the State; repealing, adding, and altering certain duties of the Secretary to enable the implementation, reporting, and evolution of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan; and requiring the Department of Aging to staff the Commission on Aging.

As a senior citizen living in Frederick County, Maryland I am part of a rapidly growing segment of our county. From a count of 47,408 age 60 or older in 2015 the count was 73,179 in 2025 and is projected to be 82,165 in 2030. This represents a 72.22% growth in age 60 or older between 2015 and 2030.² The need to provide services for our age group is apparent and critical. This bill will make that progress under the LRM plan more certain and move us forward.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0113.

¹ <https://lrm.maryland.gov/>

² <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/1027/Marylands-60-Population-Projections-by-J>