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January 26, 2026

RE: SB 0113 – Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act) – SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am Alita-Geri Carter, the owner of Qualequity Access, LLC., a consultancy grounded in data-driven transformation that advocates for quality, equity, access, and accessibility in healthcare and education. I am also the mother of two disabled children, a former unit-based director and assistant director of skilled nursing and long-term care facilities. I am writing to express my strong support for **Senate Bill 0113 (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**. As a resident of Columbia with a deep interest in healthcare quality improvement, I recognize that the demographic shifts currently facing Maryland require the proactive, multisector approach outlined in this legislation.

The Case for Longevity Readiness

Maryland is at a demographic crossroads. Recent data underscores the urgency of codifying the Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) plan:

- **Rapid Demographic Shift:** As of 2020, Marylanders aged 60 and older comprised **22.62%** of our population. Projections indicate that by 2030, nearly one in every four adults in Maryland will be 60 or older and by 2040, nearly **26.57% of Marylanders** will be over the age of 60.
- **The 2030 Milestone:** By 2030, Marylanders over 60 are expected to outnumber those under.
- **Economic Impact of Caregiving:** Maryland relies on approximately **760,000 unpaid family caregivers**, whose contributions are valued at an estimated **\$12.5 billion** annually. SB 0113's focus on supporting this workforce is critical for our state's economic stability.
- **Regional Urgency:** In jurisdictions like Worcester and Talbot counties, the median age has already surpassed 50.

Why SB 0113 is Essential

This bill does more than just update terminology; it transforms the Department of Aging from a service provider into a leader of a statewide ecosystem.



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1. **Multisector Coordination:** By requiring the Secretary of Aging to lead the implementation of the LRM Plan, SB 0113 ensures that housing, transportation, and healthcare sectors work in concert rather than in silos.
2. **Infrastructure for Aging-in-Place:** With the majority of older Marylanders preferring to stay in their homes, the bill's support for the "No Wrong Door" access model and the expansion of wraparound community services is a fiscal and social necessity.
3. **Future-Proofing Policies:** The transition of the workforce where the 55–64 age group is rapidly aging out demands the age-inclusive workplace policies and "upskilling" pathways championed by this Act.

Conclusion

SB 0113 provides the statutory framework necessary to ensure that longevity is treated as an opportunity for growth rather than a crisis of care. By investing in infrastructure today, we protect the quality of life for the current aging population and future generations of Maryland residents.

I respectfully urge a **favorable report** on SB 0113.

Respectfully Submitted,

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