



BILL: HB 278

POSITION: FWA - Favorable with Amendments

COMMITTEE: Health

DATE: February 3, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Maryland Department of Disabilities
217 East Redwood Street, Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Chair Bagnall,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support for **HB 278, Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**, including the sponsor amendments. HB 278 charges the Secretary of Aging with overseeing a multisector plan on aging designed to transform programs, services, policies, and systems to address the growing population of older adults in the State.

MDOD has been working alongside the Department of Aging on this initiative since the State was chosen to participate in a learning collaborative organized through the Center for Health Care Strategies in 2023. The learning collaborative provided Maryland with technical assistance and support to establish a framework for the state's first multisector plan. It ensured that the vision and goals were inclusive of all Marylanders and that initiatives would extend to all agencies in government. The framework was well-informed through feedback provided by a multitude of stakeholders and set Maryland up for the comprehensive plan we hope will be established in statute.

We appreciate your support for this important legislation, which recognizes the critical need to create a government that can meet the ever-changing needs of Marylanders as they age. MDOD respectfully requests a **favorable report (with the sponsor amendments) on HB 278**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary, Department of Disabilities