



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

*Catholic Charities of
Baltimore*

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland*

*Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging*

*Maryland Catholic
Conference*

*Mental Health
Association of Maryland*

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

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The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that support policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports HB 624. Older adults represent a significant and growing share of Maryland's hospital patients. As individuals age, they often experience multiple chronic conditions, cognitive impairment, functional limitations, and longer lengths of stay — all of which demand reliable, appropriately trained, and adequately staffed clinical teams. Evidence-informed staffing plans are one of the most effective tools we have to reduce preventable adverse events, improve patient safety, and ensure hospitals can deliver timely, high-quality care to older patients with complex needs.

By requiring hospitals to establish a clinical staffing committee with staff representation, HB 624 promotes a more responsive staffing model, better aligned with real-world clinical demands and the needs of an aging patient population. These committees provide a venue for staff to collaboratively identify gaps, address workflow challenges, and ensure staffing levels are based on clinical needs.

For older adults, appropriate staffing is not simply a workforce issue. It is also a safety issue. Adequate staffing reduces falls, medication errors, infections, and more. It also ensures that individuals with dementia, mobility limitations, or sensory impairments receive the attentive, person-centered care they need to remain safe and avoid unnecessary hospital readmissions.

HB 624 will strengthen Maryland's health care delivery system and improve hospital care for older adults. For these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report.