



NATIONAL ACTIVE AND RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES
MARYLAND FEDERATION

EDWARD HOLLAND
PRESIDENT

TERESA BAKER
1st VICE PRESIDENT
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

STEVE GROOM
2nd VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

MELODY KEBE
SECRETARY

GERALD WILLIAMS
TREASURER

GARY ROUNDTREE
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

DR. SUDHA HALEY
PAST PRESIDENT

DAN MCGRATH
PAST PRESIDENT

PAUL K. SCHWARTZ
VICE PRESIDENT REGION II

**Statement of the Maryland Federation of
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
House Health Committee Hearing, February 5, 2026
On HB 278 – Human Services – Department of Aging and
Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**

(Position – FAV)

To: Chair Heather Bagnall
House Health Committee

From: Robert Doyle, Chair
State Legislative Committee
NARFE – Maryland Federation

I am pleased to provide our written statement today on behalf of the State Legislative Committee of the National and Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Maryland Federation, representing approximately 317,000 federal annuitants and employees in Maryland. For the continuing benefit of our members and all Maryland seniors, we support and ask you for a favorable report on HB 278 - Human Services – Department of Aging and Committee on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act).

We understand that HB 278 will codify into state law the provisions of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan (LRMP), which is a comprehensive ten-year plan for aging designed to enhance

the quality of life for older Marylanders. Maryland will integrate the LRMP with its Federally-mandated four year State Plan on Aging required under the Older Americans Act.

As noted in the January 2026 LRMP Annual Report, codifying the LRMP into a state statute will “establish the framework as the permanent, foundational work of the MD Department of Aging and the MD Commission on Aging....and ensures our aging population benefits from a multisector, coordinated system of resources and services for generations to come.”¹

We believe that the beneficial goals of the LRMP become even more important as we face likely significant cuts to Federal programs affecting the security of Maryland’s growing population of seniors, such as energy assistance programs, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP. We endorse fully Governor Moore’s comments in July 2025 at the launch of the LRMP when he noted “While some in Washington threaten to pull the rug out from under our residents, placing greater strain on state resources, Maryland is stepping forward with urgency and a clear plan to put the well-being of older Marylanders front and center. By coordinating action across state agencies, community organizations, and the private sector, Longevity Ready Maryland takes a resilient approach to aging and makes efficient use of every resource as federal support becomes less certain.”²

We have testified many times over the years regarding proposed bills that would improve conditions for senior Marylanders to encourage them to remain in Maryland and age in place here. We want to make sure that older Marylanders are recognized for their contributions to the state’s economy as volunteers, caregivers, consumers and workers. We endorse the LRMP as a means to keep seniors here, and we believe that codifying the LRMP into state law through HB 278 will ensure that the foundations of the LRMP will be implemented fully by the MD Department of Aging and the MD Commission on Aging.

We respectfully ask that you give a Favorable report to HB 278. Thank you for this opportunity to offer our comments on this important bill.

Robert M. Doyle, Chair
State Legislative Committee
NARFE – MD Federation
4226 Carvel Lane
Edgewater, MD 21037
bdoyle47@verizon.net
H (410) 798-0079
C/Text (301) 693-1774

¹ Paving the way for a Longevity Ready Maryland – Annual Report:2026, MD Department of Aging

² <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/governor-moore-launches-longevity-ready-maryland-landmark-state-plan-support-thriving-aging-population.aspx>