



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269  
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm  
facebook.com/aarpm

**HB 882 - Termination Date and Mandatory Funding for the  
State's Consumer Health Information Hub  
House Health Committee  
February 17, 2026  
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the House Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 882, regarding the State's Consumer Health Information Hub. We thank Delegates Kaufman and Taveras for sponsoring this legislation.

My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, with approximately 850,000 members. We represent the interests of Maryland's over 50 population, ensuring that policy decisions reflect the needs of older adults.

Clear, accessible public health information is one of the strongest tools we have to keep Marylanders safe, informed, and able to make decisions that support their well-being. This is especially true for our older residents, who face unique challenges in navigating the health care system. When information is presented in plain language, older Marylanders are better able to stay healthy, independent, and engaged in their communities.

The Consumer Health Information Hub plays a vital role in ensuring that state agencies communicate clearly, consistently, and in ways that people of all literacy levels can understand. This work is especially important for older adults who may experience declining vision, hearing changes, cognitive load challenges, or limited digital literacy. Making public health information understandable is not simply a matter of convenience; it is a matter of safety, equity, and respect.

As Maryland's population ages, the demand for trustworthy, plain-language health guidance will only grow. Sustaining a statewide structure that supports clear communication benefits every resident. We therefore support repealing the sunset in the authorizing language for the Consumer Health Information Hub. Thank you for your work improving the clarity and accessibility of public health communication across our state.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 882.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at [swestrick@aarp.org](mailto:swestrick@aarp.org) or by calling 410-310-0374.

