

Chairman William Smith 2 East Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

SB407: Office of the Attorney General – Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit

**Testimony on Behalf of MD|DC** Credit Union Association

**Position:** Support

Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the MD|DC Credit Union Association and the 84 Credit Unions and their 2 million members that we represent in the State of Maryland, we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this legislation. Credit Unions are member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperatives whose mission is to promote thrift and provide access to credit for provident and productive purposes for our members. We respectfully support this bill.

The MD|DC Credit Union Association has worked with the Attorney General and multiple other partners on Project SAFE (Stop Adult Financial Exploitation) for several years. Project SAFE has made great strides at informing those who need it most about adult financial exploitation. We are fully engaged in Project SAFE and protecting vulnerable adults from harm and think that it is a vital measure to protect the public. The Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit, as contemplated in this bill, would be another beneficial "tool in the toolbox" to protect this population. Accordingly, the MD|DC Credit Union Association respectfully requests the committee to give SB407 a favorable report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 443-325-0774 or <u>jbratsakis@mddccua.org</u>, or our VP of Advocacy, Rory Murray at <u>rmurray@mddccua.org</u> should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bratsakis President/CEO

MD|DC Credit Union Association