



# Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

## MSCAN

*AARP Maryland*

*Alzheimer's  
Association,  
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish  
Council*

*Catholic Charities*

*Central Maryland  
Ecumenical Council*

*Church of the Brethren*

*Episcopal Diocese of  
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities  
Commission of  
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community  
Relations Council of  
Greater Washington*

*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*

*NAACAP- Maryland*

*National Association of  
Social Workers,  
Maryland Chapter*

*Presbytery of Baltimore*

*The Coordinating  
Center*

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## **Testimony in Support of SB0833 Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study SUPPORT Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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

SB 833 authorizes the Social Services Administration within the Department of Human Services (Department) to establish and maintain a centralized confidential database for abused and neglected vulnerable adults. It authorizes the Department or a local department of social services to identify in the database an individual responsible for abuse and neglect of a vulnerable adult after an investigation. Section two of the bill establishes a Workgroup to study best practices for a Vulnerable Adult Registry.

The registry as proposed is a system for maintaining the identity of individuals who are found, only as a result of an Adult Protective Services investigation and have an indicated finding of abuse, neglect or exploited a vulnerable adult (18 and older).

Adult protective services provide some safe guards but are called into investigate after the fact. We know abuse occurs without regard to race, income, education, place of residence, or living arrangements.

Oversight measures in these facilities must ensure that direct service workers are appropriately screened for criminal backgrounds, including a finger print check and review of federal and state protective service and abuse registries.

For these reasons, we request a FAVORABLE report for SB 833. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy at [tbresnahan@aar.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aar.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.