

**HB 745 OAG-Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit
SUPPORT
House Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2020**

Good afternoon Chairman Clippinger and members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the State, with almost 900,000 members. AARP MD and its members overwhelming **support HB 745 OAG-Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit**. We thank Delegate Stein for introducing this legislation.

AARP is working hard to strengthen retirement security for all Americans by ensuring that workers and retirees have access to their hard earned and hard saved dollars. This advocacy responds to member priorities as revealed in a recent survey of over 1700 AARP Maryland members. Sixty (60) percent responded that maintaining their retirement savings should be an AARP legislative priority.

HB 745 establishes the Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit in the Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of protecting seniors and vulnerable adults from financial crimes.

AARP has a long history of fighting for protections against elder financial exploitation and has been on the forefront of advocacy in support of federal and state laws and regulations that prevent this type of abuse.

AARP believes that States should enact and enforce laws that:

- Make it a criminal offense, with enhanced penalties, to abuse, neglect, or exploit a vulnerable individual; and
- Provide victims and their legal representatives adequate civil procedures, criminal processes and remedies including a shift in the burden of proof, the awarding of attorneys' fees and costs, awarding of damages and recovery of assets stolen.

AARP supports HB 745 and respectfully requests the House Judiciary Committee issue a favorable report. For questions please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org.