



200 St. Paul Place, #2510 | Baltimore, MD 21202  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-895-0269 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598  
aarp.org/md | mdaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpmaryland  
facebook.com/aarpmid

**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**

Good Afternoon Chairman Smith and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan. I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the Free State, encompassing almost 900,000 members. AARP MD overwhelmingly supports **SB0833 Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Stud. We thank Senator Benson for sponsoring this legislation.**

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

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, to have an indicated finding of abuse, neglect or exploited seniors or adults (18 and older) with disabilities living in the community or in a facility. The purpose of such a registry is to make this information available to individuals, agencies or employers who are authorized to receive such information. Information about registries meeting this definition was collected via two online surveys and subsequent telephone interviews with representatives of states, as well as a review of statutory and regulatory materials.

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. It is such a sickening feeling when you have to leave your mother, father, grandparent

or other adult that for no fault of their own is no longer able to care for themselves and is in need of care of a health facility, day care setting or have someone come into their home to provide care. We hope, when we leave our family members in the care of others that staff in those facilities are caring and nurturing, but there are a small few who are not and for those reasons, we need to keep track of those people.

AARP believes SB 833 is a step in the right direction in an effort to protect vulnerable adults in a health care facility. 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 ask the Committee for a favorable report.

Over half the states in the United States (26) now have abuser registries for perpetrators of elder and vulnerable adult abuse.<sup>1</sup> It is time for Maryland to join the ranks. For these reasons, we request the Committee for a FAVORABLE report. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or by calling 410-302-8451.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/adult-protective-services-abuse-registry-national-report/>