



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

*National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter*

Presbytery of Baltimore

*The Coordinating
Center*

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Testimony in Support of HB255- Department of Aging - Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs – Funding House Appropriations Committee January 19, 2021

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.

MSCAN enthusiastically supports HB255 for its potential to positively impact the lives of frail seniors who want to safely age-in-place in their own communities. The bill would fund the NANA ACT in the Department of Aging at \$100,000 dollars. This funding would be dedicated to expanding existing successful programs currently operated by caring non-profit organizations with a one-to-one match for new dollars. It would also allow other non-profits in underserved areas of the state to apply for new grants without a match requirement. Lastly, it would have a 20% carve-out for senior villages. These organizations would provide the vital services to enable frail seniors to help them stay in their homes -- services such as in-home personal care for cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation as well as transportation to doctor's appointments and other medical services.

These grants are also extremely cost-effective. With the cost of nursing home care in 2018 at \$89,967 per year, the NANA grants would help to keep seniors out of nursing homes at a fraction of the cost. We all know that seniors don't want to go to nursing homes. They want to stay at home in their communities. The NANA grant would help make this wish come true.

The NANA grant program would also assist the local Area Agencies on Aging who could partner with the non-profits in expanding aging-in-place within their jurisdictions. Cooperation and coordination between the non-profit organizations and the AAA's would help ensure that these grants are available to all eligible seniors.

The NANA grant program would expand resources to non-profits to enable them to assist more health-impaired seniors to live independently in their homes for as long as possible.

MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report on HB255. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.