



# *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*

*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 HB551 -Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services House Health and Government Operations Committee February 10, 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 HB551** for its potential to positively impact the lives of seniors by allowing more access to telehealth. Expanded use of telehealth has been a critical component in Maryland's effort to mitigate spread of the coronavirus. The service expansion has become a vital part of Maryland's continuum of care and it must be preserved well past the current pandemic. Specifically, the continued use of audio only telehealth has been invaluable to our Seniors who do not always have stable internet or have technological challenges to video health care.

While MSCAN supports all of the telehealth expansion bills, HB 551 is preferred because it protects consumer choice, ensuring that a patient may not be required to use telehealth in lieu of an in-person visit and extends reimbursement parity to telehealth services provide in the Medicaid program, not just private insurance.

**For these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report on HB551.**