



Consumer Credit Counseling Service of MD & DE, Inc.  
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**Testimony SB 175**  
**Senate Finance Committee**  
**February 19, 2022**  
**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Since 1966 Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maryland and Delaware, Inc. (CCCSMD), a Maryland 501c3 non-profit housing and credit counseling agency, has provided tens of thousands of Maryland residents with financial education, debt management solutions and budgeting tools to improve their financial well-being.

Since 2018 CCCSMD has led the annual statewide awareness campaign **Protect Week** in partnership with the Office of the Maryland Attorney General, the Maryland Department of Aging, the Maryland Department of Human Services and a coalition of state agencies and community partners to provide a variety of resources to Marylanders, educating them on the many forms of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older adults.

CCCSMD also advocates for consumer protection legislation whenever possible and in this regard I am writing today in support of SB 175. This bill arises out of the work of Project SAFE, which is a coalition of many public and private entities concerned about elder financial exploitation. Project SAFE's work revealed that there were some communication issues between Adult Protective Services (APS) and fiduciary institutions. Sometimes APS, when investigating reports of financial exploitation, has difficulty getting financial records promptly from certain banks and credit unions. Banks and credit unions are concerned that they cannot always get feedback from APS on financial exploitation cases that they had reported to APS. SB 175 addresses both of these issues and will improve communication in both directions.

If passed, SB 175 will be a win for APS and a win for fiduciary institutions. But more importantly, it will be a win for Maryland's vulnerable adults and seniors who are subjected to financial exploitation and abuse.

We respectfully request a favorable report for SB 175.

Sincerely,

Helene D. Raynaud  
President/CEO