

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair
Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair
Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



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SUPPORT – SB 743

Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Affordable Assisted Living
Enhanced Care Pilot Program

Testimony Senator Mary Washington

Senate Finance Committee, March 8, 2022

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Senate Bill 743 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Pilot Program**.

SB 743 establishes a new and innovative pilot program that leverages Medicaid funding to pay for services to attract developers and investors to build assisted living communities for our low income seniors. The goal of this pilot, which is consistent with the Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver, is to serve our most vulnerable senior citizens by providing them assistance with activities of daily living in an affordable housing setting. Such a program, furthers the goals of the Home and Community Based Waiver, by avoiding or delaying prolonged hospitalizations or skilled nursing home stays, which dramatically add costs to the overall Medicaid program.

This model is currently being utilized right next door in Washington, DC. In light of DC's demonstration that this model is certainly achievable, and given the huge waiting list of over 26,000 seniors for the Home and Community Based Waiver Program, it is clear that Maryland must begin thinking outside of the box. This pilot would take an innovative approach to provide much needed support to seniors throughout the State by stimulating collaboration and partnership between the public and private sectors.

I ask that you support this innovative effort and move favorable on SB743.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary Washington'.

Senator Mary Washington
Maryland 43rd District