



COMMISSION ON AGING

SB 743

March 8, 2022

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: James Campbell, Co-Chair
Olivia Farrow, Co-Chair
Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education

RE: Senate Bill 743 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program -
Affordable Assisted Living Enhanced Care Pilot Program

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 743.

SB 743 creates a pilot program in Maryland assisted living facilities, providing enhanced services for residents of those facilities, including care management, health and wellness programs, and activities to reduce social isolation. It also supports the use of electronic medical records to improve care monitoring. SB 743 instructs Maryland Department of Health to apply to the federal Center for Medicare and Medical Services for authority to implement the pilot program.

Increasingly, long term care is shifting out of nursing homes into community settings, including assisted living facilities. There are 402 assisted living facilities with 2,784 beds in Baltimore City. In many cases, care in assisted living sites is little more than daily supervision of frail older adults and persons with disabilities. SB 743 will introduce more robust services and activities into assisted living, to enable these residents to live healthier, more fulfilling lives, and to avoid costly and deleterious transitions to hospitals and nursing homes.

The Commission respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 743.
