

SB511 2.pdf

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Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 511

Human Services - Secretary of Aging - Qualifications

As an advocate for seniors and people with a disability, I was very pleased to see this Bill.

In the past, every Secretary that had been appointed, except one, had been a Senator. While their accomplishments were satisfactory, the new appointees had so much to learn just to begin.

Aging is a very complex issue with so many programs and so many laws. The Bill identifies the qualifications needed for future appointed Secretaries. With this background, the new Secretary will come in prepared and ready to begin exciting new programs.

This Bill is crucial for the ever-increasing aging community with its ever-increasing complex programs designed to keep people safe and save taxpayers money.

Please give this Bill a favorable vote. With it, there will be so much needed improvement in the future of the Maryland State Department of Aging.

Beth Wiseman

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SB 511 - Secretary of Aging - Qualifications.pdf

Uploaded by: Carol Lienhard

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Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

*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*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:
Carol Lienhard
Sarah Mücke
410-542-4850*

Testimony in Support of SB 511 – Human Services – Secretary of Aging – Qualifications

Senate Finance Committee

February 24, 2022

Good afternoon, my name is Carol Lienhard and I am here today in support of SB 511. I am representing the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network, a statewide coalition of organizations which supports policies that meet the housing, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low to moderate income seniors.

I began my career in 1980 with a Master's Degree in Aging from the University of Maryland. My testimony today is based on forty-two years of subsequent experience in the field of aging. I have served as the Director of the Harford County Office on Aging, a Past-President of the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging and current Co-Chair of the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network.

During this time, I have seen significant evolution in the complexity of aging services. Early on, services for seniors were primarily based on a social model offered in senior centers where older people could gather, enjoy meals together and participate in activities which helped avoid loneliness and isolation. As years went by and more seniors began to live longer, the health needs of our elderly began to require the aging network to include a medical model of programs and services to address not only social issues, but chronic health needs as well. These more complex programs such as Senior Care and the Medicaid Waiver require leaders to have the education and expertise to develop and administer effective solutions.

Right now, the number of elderly citizens in Maryland is increasing dramatically. Thus, it is more important than ever to choose future leaders of the Maryland Department of Aging who are prepared by both education and experience to effectively manage the wide range of complex and cost-effective programs and services needed to keep today's seniors healthy and active in their communities. SB 511 will help guide the selection of leaders who will be prepared to achieve these goals. Thank you for your understanding and your support.

Fran Lodder testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Frances Lodder

Position: FAV

Senate Finance Committee
February 24, 2022

SB 511 Human Services–Secretary of Aging–Qualifications **SUPPORT**

My name is Frances Lodder. For the past thirty-five years I have been involved in the field of geriatrics as both a licensed social worker and a caregiver. As a caregiver, I helped my mother navigate the myriad systems of health care, as she lost her independence and finally died in my home under hospice care. As a caregiver, I watched the decline of my husband, advocated for his health care needs and provided the personal care he needed in the last days of his life. Professionally, I provide behavioral health care services to seniors living in affordable housing who cannot locate a provider who accepts Medicare insurance nor can afford the deductibles. It is in this role that I strongly support SB 511.

For the first time in history older adults are projected to take the population lead, and the number of people over the age of 80 is projected to triple by 2050. The new Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging will need to be able to find policy solutions that will address the real challenges we face. In this rapidly changing world, the luxury of learning on the job doesn't exist. The new Secretary must be ready from day one to understand the complexities of Federal, State and local policies and how these policies affect the day-to-day lives of seniors. The new Secretary must know how to find the funding, to understand where the gaps are and to work to ensure that chronically underfunded services get help. The issues of physician shortage, increasing cost of long-term care, economic disparities and making technology affordable are but a few of the problems that the new Secretary will face. Relevant education, extensive experience and commitment to the Older Americans Act are but a few of the credentials needed to ensure that Maryland's seniors will continue to have a leader ready to move forward. I strongly urge your support for SB 511.

Shycoff testimony SB 511.pdf

Uploaded by: Isabella Shycoff

Position: FAV

Finance Committee
February 24, 2022

SB 511 – Secretary of Aging – Qualifications - SUPPORT

Madame Chair and members of the committee, my name is Isabella Shycoff.

SB 511 is a modest proposal, but one that is critical to moving forward with a modern and effective government agency.

Although I'm now retired, for 23 years I was the Executive Director of LifeSpan, the largest senior care association in Maryland. It was my business to understand statewide aging services, and the senior care market sector. In my professional capacity at LifeSpan, I had the opportunity to work with the last 4 Department of Aging Secretaries.

While all four secretaries certainly brought their own strengths to the position, Maryland hasn't had a Secretary of Aging with any aging services administration experience since Sue Ward, which was, 3 Secretaries and over 20 years ago.

Why does this matter?

- **For Healthcare** - Pandemic has savaged Maryland's seniors, the vast majority of the 13k+ deaths have been among the elderly.
- **Demographic Realities** - Our state population is aging! Maryland seniors will outnumber children by 2030.
- **Workforce Crisis** - The caregiver workforce - (particularly for senior care) is currently experiencing crushing, debilitating, unprecedented shortages.
- **Affordable Housing** - Epic waiting lists for affordable assisted living and senior housing.

So I think now is a good time to begin making seniors, this growing demographic, a state public policy priority in Maryland. We can begin by requiring that whoever leads this agency going forward, at a minimum, has the relevant experience and understanding of this demographic to lead. And then follow with providing the necessary resources to make Maryland a leader in the country in aging services policy and programming.

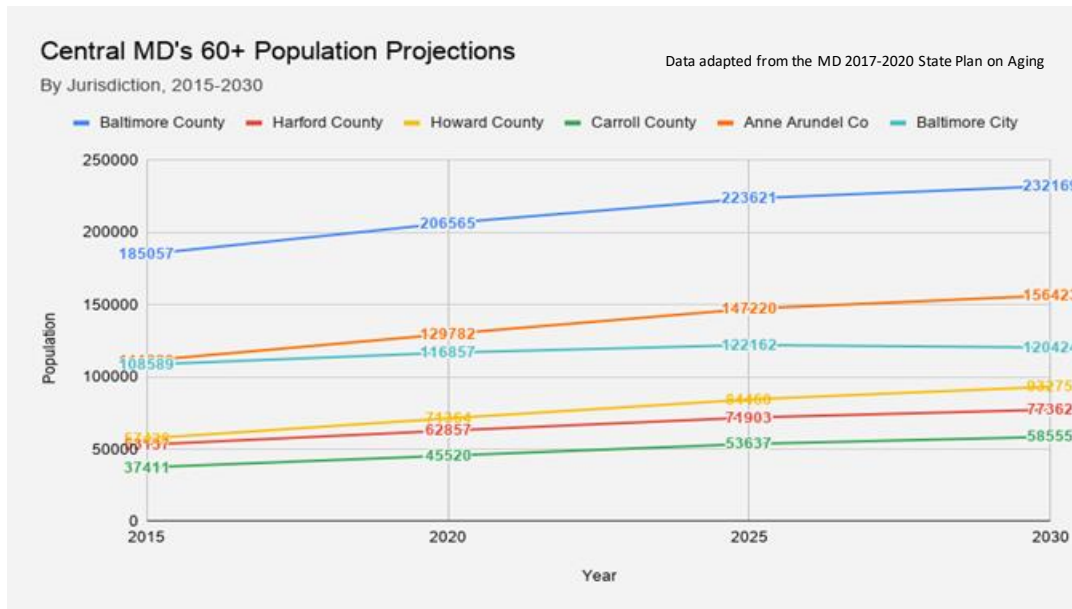
SB 511 Support Kim Burton Final.pdf

Uploaded by: Kimberly Burton

Position: FAV

Senate Finance Committee, February 24, 2022 SB 511 – Human
Services – Secretary of Aging - Qualifications **SUPPORT**

Thank you, members of the Senate Finance Committee, for this opportunity to offer my support today for SB 511. My name is Kim Burton and I speak as a professional who has worked in aging and behavioral health services for more than 25 years. I am also a citizen of Baltimore County where, as you can see on the graph below, we have the highest number of adults over the age of 60 in Central Maryland.



I include this graph as a visual in the goal of my testimony which is to assert that the growth in need for aging programs and services necessitates the establishment of relevant qualifications for the leader of the Maryland Department of Aging, as none currently exist. Marylanders from age 60 to age 100+ (individuals over the age of 80 represent Maryland's fastest growing population) are extremely diverse requiring an understanding of the evidence based and data driven programs which target an ever-expanding continuum of need.

My area of expertise is in geriatric behavioral health. The Maryland Department of Aging, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health released a report to the legislature in October of 2021 specifying: *"The prevalence of cognitive and behavioral health disorders among older adults is high resulting in concerning trends around older adult suicide, overdose, hospital lengths of stay, caregiver burnout, and overall costs to the healthcare system. Workforce shortages as well funding and service capacity limitations present challenges to meeting a growing demand on Maryland's healthcare, behavioral health and long term care systems. The Maryland Department of Aging and the Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration, with input from a group of expert stakeholders, have identified opportunities for cross agency collaboration and the steps to create a multi-year plan to address the growing need of Marylanders with cognitive and behavioral health needs."*

Such concerns have only grown with the circumstances of COVID 19. No doubt, the multi-year plan and cross agency collaboration will require an even deeper level of departmental expertise to foster strategic planning and program development which address behavioral and cognitive wellness, caregiver support and workforce challenges.

The experts working in Maryland's Department of Aging and our Area Agencies on Aging must have a Secretary who can hit the ground running with the background and knowledge necessary to immediately execute the multiple demands of the office. I've witnessed the steep learning curve that our past Department of Aging Secretaries have experienced to get up to speed with the duties and expectations of the Department's specialized work because they did not have expertise in the field of aging or working knowledge of the Older American's Act. The baseline requirements offered in SB 511 will ensure a cabinet member who is immediately prepared to review and formulate policy recommendations to the Governor for programs unique to older adults. These baseline requirements will ensure that the Secretary has knowledge of and commitment to the requirements and vision of the Older Americans Act and the Maryland Department of Aging. Our current Secretary has established a plan for the Maryland Department of Aging that is focused, ambitious and urgent. The passage of SB 511 will help to maximize enactment of this plan.

Thank you again for this opportunity and I urge your favorable report on SB 511.

SB0511 Secretary of Aging Professional Requirement

Uploaded by: Margo Quinlan

Position: FAV

Senate Bill 511 Human Services – Secretary of Aging – Qualifications

Senate Finance Committee

February 24, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

The Mental Health Association of Maryland is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health, mental illness and substance use. We appreciate this opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 511.

SB 511 requires the Secretary of Aging to be professionally qualified with extensive experience with laws, legislation and regulations relating to aging, programs for aging individuals including evidence-based and data-driven programs, and demonstrate a commitment to the missions of both the Federal Older Americans Act and the Department of Aging.

According to the Department of Legislative Services, the Secretary of Aging is responsible for managing a budget of almost \$65 million.¹ As Maryland's older adult population grows at a rapid pace, the role of the Secretary is increasingly critical in meeting the front-line behavioral health, food and nutrition, and community-based wellness needs of these communities. The Secretary oversees the state's Area Agencies on Aging, the Public Guardianship Administration, and the Community for Life program and the Durable Medical Equipment Reuse program.

To best serve the health interests of all Marylanders, it is essential that the Secretary of Aging be professionally qualified through experience or education in a health-related field. For this reason, MHAMD supports SB 511 and urges a favorable report.

¹ Department of Legislative Services (January 2022). *Maryland Department of Health Fiscal 2023 Budget Overview*. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/pubs/budgetfiscal/2023fy-budget-docs-operating-M00-MDH-Overview.pdf>

¹ Department of Legislative Services (January 2021). *Maryland Department of Aging Fiscal 2022 Budget Overview*. <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/Pubs/BudgetFiscal/2022fy-budget-docs-operating-D26A07-Department-of-Aging.pdf>

For more information, please contact Emily Allen at (443) 901-1588

Final M4A testimony for SB511 2 2 22.pdf

Uploaded by: Michele Douglas

Position: FAV



*Catherine R. Willis, LMSW
President
Representing Queen Anne's County
Department of Community Services*

*Gina Valentine, Vice President
Representing Carroll County
Bureau of Aging & Disabilities*

*Gary Gunther, Treasurer
Representing Upper Shore Aging, Inc.,
Talbot, Caroline & Kent Counties*

*Karrisa Gouin, Secretary
Representing Anne Arundel County
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**Senate Finance Committee
February 24, 2022**

Legislation: SB 511 Human Services – Secretary of Aging - Qualifications

Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Position: Support

The nineteen member organizations of M4A serve Maryland's older and disabled citizens, providing a range of cost-effective state, federal and locally funded programs that help individuals remain secure in the community with dignity, independence, and choice as they age. M4A and its associated Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) represent the "front line" in Maryland's challenge to meet the complex and varied needs of well over 1 million older adults statewide.

The Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging supports Senate Bill 511 to establish certain qualification requirements for an individual appointed as the Secretary of Aging. Due to the growth, maturity, and evolution in the field of Aging we strongly support this effort.

Currently the population of seniors in Maryland is growing rapidly; a trend that will continue as the baby boomer generation ages. The field of aging has matured significantly since the Department of Aging was established. The confluence of the surging senior population, maturation of the field, and limited state and federal resources to serve the growing population necessitates a qualified leader who can at the outset:

- Enhance the development of evidenced-based programming
- Use their knowledge of and experience with best practices to facilitate innovative and creative services that meet the needs of older adults, caregivers, families, and veterans
- Use performance outcomes and data to make informed decisions
- Provide seamless and specific expertise so services and programming for Maryland's older adult population is provided in a meaningful way across the state.

While this bill is forward looking and will not become effective until the next Administration, it is largely modeled on the qualifications for the Secretary of Disabilities, which created under then-Governor Ehrlich's Administration and passed into law by the Maryland General Assembly. The two fields, aging and disability are similarly mature at this point and largely similarly situated.

SB511 will require that the Secretary of Aging:

- Have extensive experience with and knowledge of laws, legislation, and regulations, relating to Aging; and programs for Aging individuals, including evidence-based and data-driven programs.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the missions of both the Federal Older American's Act and the Department.

Maryland is fortunate to have a wealth of expertise in the field of aging around the state. We have an opportunity to pull from that existing expert talent and bring into public service a person familiar with the important aging practices and trends to help lead Maryland as our aging population grows. We urge a favorable report on SB 511.

NAW SB 511 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Tiffin

Position: FAV

Testimony Before the Senate Finance Committee

Senate Bill 511 Human Services – Secretary of Aging – Qualifications

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD) Committee on Aging, we would like to express our support for Senate Bill 511 – Human Services – Secretary of Aging – Qualifications.

We are in favor of this bill because we understand that the Secretary of the Department of Aging plays a vital role in planning, delivering, and evaluating essential services to older and Marylanders and those with disabilities. This individual must possess the knowledge and commitment to fulfill these vital functions which impact the health and well being of over 1.5 million Marylanders.

The Maryland Department of Aging is not only a state-level cabinet Department, but also a State Unit on Aging (SUA), as defined by the Federal Older Americans Act (the OAA). The OAA establishes 56 State Units on Aging (SUAs) across the U.S., which are responsible for developing and administering multi-year state plans that advocate for and support older residents. The OAA mandates a wide range of programs for older adults, including home-delivered meals, legal assistance, and advocacy for long-term care residents. The Secretary of the Department of Aging is responsible for “administering those programs and services under the federal **Older Americans Act** of 1965 that are delegated to the State...” (Administration for Community Living).

Due to the complexities of the job, including the dual federal/state responsibilities and the myriad of aging services for which they are responsible, it is essential that the Secretary possess a thorough knowledge of the OAA and other key laws and regulations governing senior services. Just as importantly, they must possess knowledge of the service needs of older adults and demonstrate a commitment to this population.

As social workers serving older adults, we are committed to the OAA’s emphasis on targeting limited resources to older adults with the greatest economic or social need. This need is defined as “the need resulting from an income level at or below the poverty line..and... the need caused by non-economic factors, which include: a) physical and mental disabilities; b) language barriers; and c) cultural, social, or geographical isolation, including isolation caused by racial or ethnic status, that” i) restricts the ability of an individual to perform normal daily tasks or iii) threatens the capacity of the individual to live independently (Older Americans Act).

Since resources are limited, the Secretary must understand the priorities established in the OAA, particularly the requirement to target programs to those with the greatest economic and social need.

SB 511 would require that every Secretary of the Department of Aging possess the knowledge of laws and programs affecting older adults, and just as importantly, a commitment to the stated missions of the OAA and the Department.

For these reasons, we ask that you give a favorable report to SB 511.

Respectfully,

Mary Beth DeMartino, LCSW

Executive Director, NASW-MD

SB0511-543021-01 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



SB0511/543021/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

22 FEB 22
14:38:44

BY: Senator Hettleman
(To be offered in the Finance Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 511
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 2, after “**PROGRAMS;**” insert “**AND**”; and strike beginning with the semicolon in line 4 down through “**DEGREE**” in line 5.

SB511_Hettleman_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN
SB 511-Human Services-Secretary of Aging Qualifications

According to the United States Census Bureau, 15.9% of Maryland residents are 65 or older.¹ Aging individuals are at risk for financial exploitation, elderly abuse, and a myriad of other problems that have the potential to adversely impact their quality of life.² The Maryland Department of Aging is committed to improving the quality of life of the aging community through its mission of creating Maryland as an attractive location for older adults through vibrant communities and supportive services.³ Since the Cabinet level Department was first established (in 1998), the field of aging has matured. This bill seeks to ensure that the leader of this agency has the knowledge, experience and expertise in this ever-changing field that is experiencing a tremendous growth in population.

SB 511 looks forward and creates certain requirements that the next Secretary of Aging must fulfill. It is patterned after a law enacted in 2004 when Governor Ehrlich created the Department of Disabilities. Just like the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities, the next Secretary of Aging would be required to hold at least a bachelor's degree, be knowledgeable about laws, regulations, and legislation regarding aging as well as programs directed to aging populations, and demonstrate a commitment to the missions of the Federal Older Americans Act and the Department of Aging, two entities that protect the livelihood of aging citizens. Moreover, federal funding from the Older Americans Act is responsible for over 50% of the Department's budget.

There continues to be innovation in the field of aging, resulting in the development of evidence-based programming, best practices, performance outcomes, and specific expertise to inform interventions to support the growing aging population. The National Conference of State Legislatures points to the necessity for policymakers to integrate comprehensive approaches that are often multidisciplinary and span numerous policy areas into policy supporting aging populations due to the unique challenges that they face.⁴

¹ N.d. Census.Gov. Accessed February 17, 2022. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MD>.

² Lachs, Mark S., and S. Duke Han. 2015. "Age-Associated Financial Vulnerability: An Emerging Public Health Issue." *Annals of Internal Medicine* 163 (11): 877–78. <https://doi.org/10.7326/M15-0882>.

³ "About Us." n.d. Maryland Department of Aging. Accessed February 17, 2022. <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/AboutUsMDOA.aspx>.

⁴ Scotti, Samantha, Alise Garcia, and Lesley Kennedy. n.d. "Comprehensive Policy Approaches to Support the Aging Population." Ncsl.Org. Accessed February 17, 2022. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/comprehensive-policy-approaches-to-support-the-aging-population.aspx>.

Integrating multidisciplinary fields of policy and keeping up with the rapidly expanding innovation in the field of aging requires expertise on evidence-based programs, legislation, and extensive commitment to protecting the lives and livelihood of the growing aging population in Maryland.

It is essential that we uphold the missions of the Department of Aging and the Federal Older Americans Act to ensure that our constituents thrive. I ask for your support of SB511. Thank you.