



COMMISSION ON AGING AND RETIREMENT

James Campbell, Co-Chair
Olivia Farrow, Co-Chair

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor

February 23, 2023

TO: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

RE: Senate Bill 797-Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse

POSITION: Support with Amendment

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education **supports** Senate Bill 797 **with an amendment**.

Elder abuse and neglect are a growing problem in Baltimore City. Incidences of abuse, neglect, and exploitation are increasing both in institutional settings (nursing homes and assisted living facilities) and in the community. For several years, Baltimore City public agencies and nonprofit partners have participated in a coalition to address this issue, like the Elder Abuse Central Coordinated Response (CCR) effort, led by CHANA, an organization that offers a Jewish community response to the needs of people who have experienced abuse or trauma. Much work needs to be done, however, both in the form of expanding public awareness, providing regular training for health and human services workers, and developing resources for victims.

We propose this amendment, to be inserted after “Task Force” in Section 1, (b) (11) (vi):

“VII ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A MARYLAND AREA AGENCY ON AGING”

The intent of this amendment is to assure that the views of Maryland’s locally based Area Agencies on Aging are represented on the Task Force. Area Agencies on Aging, in accordance with the federal Older Americans Act, are charged to develop programs that address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

For the reasons stated above, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 797 with this proposed amendment.
