



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 25, 2024

Bill Number: **HB1304**

Bill Title: Maryland Department of Health and Department of Aging - Earned Income Tax Credit - Distribution of Information and Training

Committee: Senate Finance

**MDOA Position: FAVORABLE**

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The Department of Aging (MDOA) submits this letter of support for House Bill 1304 - Maryland Department of Health and Department of Aging - Earned Income Tax Credit - Distribution of Information and Training.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. A core service MDOA and staff at Maryland's AAAs provide is the Maryland Access Point (MAP), which serves as Maryland's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ARDC) under longtime federal law, the Older Americans Act.

Maryland Access Point assistance is intended to be a gateway or single point of entry into the long-term services and supports system for older adults, people with disabilities, caregivers and families. Largely through phone contact, this is where older Marylanders and caregivers of all income levels can call and get unbiased, reliable information about long-term services and supports and in their county, as well as person-centered options counseling and basic guidance and referrals on certain income-based and/or age-based programs. There is permissible variation in what services AAA MAP refer to, including available local tax advising services. MDOA has a MAP/"No Wrong Door" Coordinator that oversees the statewide MAP staff network at all 19 AAAs and regularly convenes virtual training sessions for all AAA MAP teams, which provide an easy avenue for MDOA to provide the awareness-raising training on the state earned income tax credit on HB1304.



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For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a favorable report for HB1304. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at [andreah.nunez@maryland.gov](mailto:andreah.nunez@maryland.gov) or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel Roques". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carmel Roques  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Aging