



Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
SB834: Don't Scam Maryland Act of 2024  
Position: Favorable

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
3 East  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

cc: Members, Senate Finance Committee

Honorable Chair Beidle and members of the committee:

Economic Action Maryland (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and equity for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

I am writing today to urge your favorable consideration on SB834, the Don't Scam Maryland Act of 2024.

[According to the Federal Trade Commission](#), in 2022, consumers across the nation lost \$8.8 billion due to fraud, a 30% increase from 2021. With the rise of AI technology in scams, this number is likely to increase unless there is swift and effective policy intervention.

Economic Action Maryland's Securing Older Adult Resources, or SOAR, program has published and distributed materials on common scams to the older adults we work with. However, our scope is limited due to budget constraints and our ability to reach out to a limited number of clients. This bill would expand scam prevention information and help more older adults across the state protect their money.

Additionally, despite the stereotype that older adults are the majority of scam victims, Gen Z Americans are [three times](#) more likely to get caught up in an online scam than boomers. Many young people think they are savvy enough to avoid scams, but the data proves otherwise. We should be ensuring that young people learn how to protect themselves online, especially considering how much time younger generations spend on the internet.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,  
Zoe Gallagher, Policy Associate