



# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*AARP Maryland*

*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*

*Mental Health  
Association of Maryland*

*Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan*

*National Association of  
Social Workers,  
Maryland Chapter*

*Presbytery of Baltimore*

*The Coordinating  
Center*

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## **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 863 - Office of the Attorney General – Rights of Residents of Health Care Facilities – Injunctive Relief and Penalties Finance Committee**

**March 1, 2024**

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports Senate Bill 863 which would give the Attorney General the authority to seek injunctive relief against certain health care facilities when there is an imminent or ongoing violation of the listed bill of rights of the residents. It also requires the Department of Health to create a resident bill of rights for those in assisted living facilities.

According to the National Council on Aging, 1 in 10 adults aged 60 and older are being abused, and this number is likely under reported. Right now, many of those violations in residential facilities are punishable by a simple fine and not a change in actions. SB863 would be able to enforce change with an injunction for bad acting facilities.

Another necessary reason for SB863 is that it creates a codified resident bill of rights for assisted living residents, which must include several rights, including the right to notice of transfer or discharge or the right to participate in that decision making. SB863 codification of resident rights will make assisted living facilities more accountable and ultimately safer for their residents.

For the reasons stated above, MSCAN urges a favorable report on SB863.

Thank you for your consideration.