



# *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 of  
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*

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## **Testimony in Support of SB 371 – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Provider Agencies and Personal Care Aides – Reimbursement and Wage Reports (Homecare Workers Livable Wage Act of 2024) Senate Finance Committee February 6, 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.

SB 371 will require provider agencies to submit certain reports to the Maryland Department of Labor regarding wage rates for personal care aides. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will compare the reimbursement rates for certain home- and community-based services (HCBS) provided under Maryland Medicaid with actual costs associated with providing these services. Based on this review, MDH will develop a plan to close any gaps in reimbursement rates, including considering wages. Findings and recommendations will be updated every two years.

Maryland's diverse senior population is projected to grow faster than any other age group in the coming years. By 2035, projections indicate there will be nearly 2.1 million adults aged 60 and over compared to 1.6 million children and youth under the age of 19. As Marylanders age, it is important to have a robust healthcare workforce to enable seniors to seek the care they need. Personal care aides are an essential part of the workforce as they support individuals with activities of daily living, often enabling seniors to age in place.

As our senior population grows, the demand for additional workforce involved in caring for seniors will also grow. However, the availability of personal care aides is expected to decline if no action is taken to address recruitment and retention. This bill works to address this issue by providing data that will inform future policy decisions to ensure there are sufficient workers to care for our seniors in need of these services.

MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report for SB 371.