



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 28, 2025

Bill Number: SB920

Bill Title: Public Health – Maryland Interested Parties Advisory Group – Establishment

Committee: Senate Finance

**MDOA Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

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The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) thanks the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to submit this favorable with amendments testimony for Senate Bill (SB) 920 - Public Health – Maryland Interested Parties Advisory Group – Establishment.

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. MDOA is concluding its Longevity-Ready Maryland Initiative’s first year of stakeholder engagement and planning work. Increasing support for direct care workers is undoubtedly a component of this effort, so that all older adults have equal access to coordinated care and services.

MDOA is thus supportive of the establishment of a Maryland Interested Parties Advisory Group that focuses on Medicaid payment rates for home and community-based services, barriers to access to care, disparities impacting direct care workers and consumers, wage rates and benefits. MDOA is particularly supportive of this effort to elevate the voices of direct care workers on these topics. Formalizing this role for workers and other interested parties on these issues is particularly important given uncertainty around the fate of many key provisions in the Centers for Medicaid Services’ Ensuring Access To Medicaid Services Final Rule.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CMS, Ensuring Access to Medicaid Services Final Rule  
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/ensuring-access-medicare-services-final-rule-cms-2442-f>



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As the agency tasked with leading this advisory group, MDOA is supportive of any requested amendments from the Maryland Department of Health on this bill. For these reasons, the Department of Aging respectfully urges a favorable with amendments report for SB 920. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at [andrea.nunez@maryland.gov](mailto:andrea.nunez@maryland.gov) or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel Roques". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light blue background.

Carmel Roques  
Secretary  
Maryland Department of Aging