



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm
facebook.com/aarpm

**HB 1478 Public Health – Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care
Providers
Senate Finance Committee
March 25, 2025
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan; I am the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of AARP Maryland and our more than 850,000 members statewide, we respectfully submit our strong support for House Bill 1478 Public Health – Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers. We thank Delegate Hill and the other 27 co-sponsors of HB 1478.

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Health, in consultation with labor and consumer stakeholders, to report on the feasibility of establishing and maintaining an online home care directory. AARP policy strongly supports efforts to help older adults live independently in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Accessible, high-quality home care is a critical part of that vision—and HB 1478 takes a crucial step in making this care more transparent and navigable for Maryland families.

As Maryland’s population ages, the demand for home care is rapidly increasing. Families of older adults, including caregivers, frequently face confusion and frustration as they try to locate appropriate home care services. With more than 2,000 licensed Residential Service Agencies (RSAs) and over 51,000 home care workers across the state, consumers often struggle to find the right match for their loved ones’ specific needs—whether it’s language proficiency, specialized training in dementia care, or cultural understanding.

AARP has long advocated for consumer-friendly tools and resources that allow individuals and their families to make informed care decisions. A centralized, online home care directory would be an essential step in closing the information gap. It would allow consumers to identify and contact RSAs and workers based on key criteria, such as availability, training, licensure, language skills, and services offered. This is especially important as families care for loved ones facing complex conditions such as Alzheimer’s, developmental disabilities, or behavioral health challenges.

Personal care aides are the unsung heroes of our long-term care system. They provide hands-on support with daily activities like bathing, dressing, eating, and mobility, in addition to housekeeping, transportation, and social engagement. Yet too many Maryland families struggle to connect with these essential workers. A home care directory would not only improve access to

care, but also elevate the visibility of the workforce and help address growing disparities in long-term services and supports.

HB 1478 reflects a commonsense, data-driven approach to understanding Maryland's care infrastructure. By mandating a feasibility report with input from labor and consumer stakeholders, the bill provides a thoughtful, inclusive foundation for future policy action. The directory it envisions has the potential to transform the way Marylanders access care—particularly those aging in place or living with chronic conditions.

AARP Maryland urges a favorable report on HB 1478. We thank the sponsors and the committees for recognizing the urgency of this issue and for centering the needs of families, caregivers, and older adults in this important policy discussion. If you have any questions, please contact me at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.