



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

*Catholic Charities of
Baltimore*

*Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council*

Church of the Brethren

*Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County*

*Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
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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HB 246- Human Services - Adult Protective Services Judiciary Committee January 30, 2025 Support

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 HB 246. This legislation will strengthen protections for seniors by streamlining the State's approach to address abuse, neglect, and exploitation – specifically through allowing easier coordination between Adult Protective Service (APS) agencies, law enforcement, and other government officials.

Elder abuse is a serious and growing problem. Every year, an estimated five million seniors in the United States are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, one in ten older adults experience some form of abuse, yet it remains underreported.

Maryland's senior population is growing rapidly, and the demand for APS services will only increase. APS plays an important role to prevent or remedy the abuse of adults who are unable to protect their own interests. As such, it is essential that we strengthen the coordination among our APS agencies, law enforcement, and other government agencies to respond effectively to reports of abuse and neglect. This will prevent vulnerable adults falling through the cracks or experiencing long delays in the resolution of their investigations.

By supporting HB 246, we are investing in the protection of our seniors and ensuring they can live their lives with dignity and security.

For the reasons stated above, MSCAN urges a favorable report on HB 246.

Thank you for your consideration.