



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*

*Jewish Community
Relations Council of
Greater Washington*

*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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House Bill 604 Vulnerable and Senior Adults - Theft of Property by Caregiver, Family Member – Prohibition Judiciary Committee February 11, 2025 Support as Amended by the Sponsor

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.

House Bill 604 with sponsor amendments seeks to make changes to criminal code article § 8 which criminalizes financial crimes committed against vulnerable adults. This bill would make it so that caregivers who financially exploit vulnerable adults in their care can be convicted of a felony and, where eligible, subject to mandatory exclusion from working for any Federal or State funded healthcare system for a period of five years.

Elderly individuals are among the most vulnerable members of our society when it comes to financial fraud and exploitation. Family members, neighbors and professional caregivers all too often exploit them. They often take their credit card or cash without the vulnerable adult's knowledge and defraud them. Currently, this act is not considered deception since Maryland's criminal code requires a broken trust where the victim is misled. By making changes to the criminal code, Maryland will be able to better protect some of its most vulnerable residents.

For these reasons, MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report for on HB604 as amended by the sponsor.