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**HB 494 - Health Insurance - Primary Care Investment Targets –  
Reimbursement and Reporting  
Senate Finance Committee  
March 24, 2026  
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and members of the Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 494, concerning primary care investment targets.

My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, one of the largest membership-based organizations in the state, with approximately 850,000 members. We represent the interests of Maryland's over 50 population, ensuring that policy decisions reflect the needs of older adults.

As we age, regular access to primary care is essential to staying healthy, managing chronic conditions, and avoiding costly hospital visits. Strong primary care keeps older adults independent and connected to their communities.

House Bill 494 helps ensure that insurance carriers invest appropriately in primary care by linking reimbursement and rate filings to the State's primary care investment targets. This accountability matters to older adults, who too often face long waits for appointments or difficulty finding providers who accept their coverage.

By strengthening primary care investment and transparency, this bill supports better health outcomes and more affordable care for Maryland's aging population. For these reasons, AARP Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 494.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at [swestrick@aarp.org](mailto:swestrick@aarp.org) or by calling 410-310-0374.

