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HB 1504 – The Honorable Anne Healey Pedestrian Safety Act of 2026
Senate Finance Committee
April 1, 2026
FAVORABLE

Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of AARP Maryland, we ask that you accept this favorable testimony in support of House Bill 1504, the Honorable Anne Healey Pedestrian Safety Act of 2026.

AARP is deeply committed to advancing livable communities, places that are safe, accessible, and welcoming for people of all ages. Central to this commitment is ensuring that residents can travel safely, whether they walk, use mobility aids, bike, drive, or rely on public transportation. HB 1504 aligns squarely with these values by strengthening Maryland's approach to sidewalk and bicycle infrastructure and prioritizing investments that improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

As Maryland's population ages, safe and accessible walking environments become increasingly important. Sidewalks and connected pedestrian networks are critical to helping older adults remain independent, engaged, and physically active. They also reduce social isolation, improve public health outcomes, and support local economies. HB 1504 recognizes these benefits by requiring the State Highway Administration to prioritize funding for sidewalks and bicycle pathways in areas subject to Complete Streets and Vision Zero policies.

We also appreciate the bill's emphasis on public engagement and protection of existing pedestrian routes. Community input and continuity of safe walking paths are essential to building infrastructure that truly serves residents.

For these reasons, AARP Maryland respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 1504. We thank Delegate Healey and the bill's sponsors for their leadership on pedestrian safety and their commitment to making Maryland communities safer and more livable for people of all ages.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick, AARP Maryland Advocacy Director, at swestrick@aarp.org or by calling 410-310-0374.

