



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish
Council*

Catholic Charities

*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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Testimony in Support of SB 860 – Department of Aging – Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment

Finance Committee Hearing: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

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.

Good afternoon, my name is Carol Lienhard. I am the retired Director of the Harford County Office on Aging, past President of the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging and current Co-Chair of the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network. I am here today in support of SB 860 which would establish a non-lapsing Aging Resilience Fund for the Maryland Department of Aging. This fund would be authorized to receive donations and corporate contributions to be used to support the implementation of mission of the Department. In recognition of today's tight budget climate and in the face of a rapidly growing aging population, it makes sense to establish a fund which will enable the Department of Aging to receive funds from outside sources to start innovative programs and implement services to serve the needs of Maryland's seniors which might not be possible without help from the private sector.

I come to you with positive personal experience with such a revolving fund established for the Harford County Office on Aging. Our fund was established by the Harford County Council to enable the community to make donations to meet the emergency needs of Harford County Seniors. It has grown from an initial \$63.00 to more than \$115,000 through fund-raising efforts, donations from community organizations and United Way contributions from county employees. Over the past 25 years, we have been able to meet the emergency needs of hundreds of seniors identified by our outreach staff when there was nowhere else to turn.

At the State level, such a non-lapsing fund could provide a repository for outside donations from both individuals and businesses to further the mission of the Maryland Department of Aging as it works to meet the needs of Maryland's seniors, their families and caregivers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 860 to establish the Aging Resilience Fund for the Maryland Department of Aging. We look forward to a favorable report.