



# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*AARP Maryland*

*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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The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that support policies that meet the housing, health, and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

**MSCAN supports SB 428.** This bill will ensure that Marylanders receiving integrated behavioral health care through the Collaborative Care Model do not have to pay out-of-pocket costs. It removes financial barriers to getting behavioral health conditions identified and treated in primary care settings.

More than 50% of older adults with behavioral health conditions do not receive treatment. Stigma, cost, and transportation challenges are barriers to accessing specialty behavioral health care, especially for older adults. To address this gap, mild to moderate behavioral health conditions can and should be identified and treated in primary care settings.

The Collaborative Care Model is an evidence-based approach to integrating behavioral and physical healthcare, enabling older adults to receive screening, treatment, and ongoing monitoring in the familiar setting of their primary care. For many older adults managing multiple chronic illnesses, mobility limitations, or social isolation, this integrated model is the difference between untreated behavioral health needs and early, effective intervention. Eliminating cost-sharing helps ensure that behavioral health is treated like any other essential component care, particularly important for older adults who frequently live on fixed incomes.

For these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report for SB 428.