



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
240 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Senate Bill 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Ready Maryland Act) - Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Bagnall and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for Senate Bill (SB) 113 - Human Services - Department of Aging and Commission on Aging (The Longevity Ready Maryland Act). The purpose of SB 113 is to codify the Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) Plan, an initiative directed by Governor Wes Moore's Executive Order on January 3, 2024. The Secretary of Aging will lead implementation of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan as a multisector, cross-agency strategy to address the needs of Maryland's older adults.

The goals of LRM align with the Department's mission to protect and advance the health and well-being of all Marylanders. Maryland's population of residents aged 60 years and older is rapidly growing. By 2034, there will be more older adults residing in Maryland than children and youth. The areas of focus and planning strategies outlined in SB 113 underscore the importance of long term assessment, planning, and the prioritization of resource allocation for Maryland's aging and vulnerable populations. SB 113 provides focus and structure necessary to advance the LRM agenda.

The Department particularly supports the emphasis in the LRM plan on cross-sector collaboration, including consulting and advising State units, boards and commissions regarding actions that may assist in implementing the LRM Plan. The Department also supports collaborative efforts to review and recommend legislation and other policy action to the Governor related to publicly funded programs that affect older adults and the implementation of the LRM plan.

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) within MDH is the designated State survey agency in Maryland and is authorized to conduct certification activities on behalf of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). As a regulatory agency, OHCQ has a statutory mandate to protect patient and resident welfare through licensing, certification, inspections, complaint investigations, and enforcement. Consistent with the goals of the LRM plan, OHCQ, in collaboration with the Department of Aging and other state agencies, is working to increase the capacity of licensed assisted living programs (ALPs) to safely serve Maryland residents, while strengthening interagency coordination to streamline response efforts and better meet the needs of residents and providers.

In conclusion, SB 113 as amended positions Maryland to better address the projected growth of

older adults through cross-sector collaboration and advocacy. The Department also supports the Maryland Department of Aging's amendment request for the adoption of the Health Committee's final technical amendment.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director for the Office of Governmental Affairs, at meghan.lynch@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meena Seshamani', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D.
Secretary of Health