



## COMMISSION ON AGING

### **Testimony on HB1291: Position – Favorable Public Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Continuity of Care**

**TO:** Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and members of the Health Committee  
**FROM:** Linda Bergofsky and Wayne Berman, Co-Chairs, Montgomery County Commission on Aging

We are writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) in support of **HB1291 - Public Health – Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Continuity of Care**. The CoA was established by Montgomery County in 1974 pursuant to a requirement of the Federal Older Americans Act of 1965, that there be an Advisory Council to the Area Agency on Aging. In that role, the CoA serves as an advocate for the health, safety, and well-being of the County's older residents at the local, State, and National levels. HB1291 supports a topic of interest to the Commission and our constituents, specifically administrative simplicity in entitlement programs. This bill is designed to correct the adverse changes for Medicaid recipients that are contained in the federal reconciliation budget, Public Law 119-21, passed in July 2025.

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [study](#) has estimated that Public Law 119-21 would reduce federal Medicaid spending over a decade by an estimated \$911 billion. Maryland will see a 7% - 10% federal Medicaid cut as a result of the enacted reconciliation budget. As many as 175,000 Maryland Medicaid recipients may lose coverage, largely due to immigrant eligibility changes, work requirements, and other new administrative provisions. The National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging has concluded that dually eligible Medicare and Medicaid recipients will be disproportionately burdened by these onerous requirements and the added potential for administrative and technical errors.

HB1291 provides critical protections for certain Medicaid recipients facing a lapse in services due to an administrative or technical error, and continuing appeals and hearing rights during the temporary continuation. Without this bill, thousands of older and disabled Marylanders will face uncertainty as to whether they can continue to receive critical health care services.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on HB1291.

**Department of Health and Human Services**

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