



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 18, 2026

Health Committee
Chair, Delegate Heather Bagnall
Vice Chair, Delegate Bonnie Cullison
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB 1511 SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bagnall and Vice Chair Cullison:

We are writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) in support of **HB1511 Maryland Department of Health – Study on Maryland Medical Assistance Program Reimbursement of Hospice Room and Board**. This bill requires the Division of Health Care Financing and Medicaid within the Maryland Department of Health to conduct a study on the potential impact of the Maryland's Medicaid program, reimbursing hospice houses for room and board services.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise the county government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state, and national levels. The Commission identifies issues where its voice on the needs of older adults can make a difference.

The purpose of the study is to focus on how this reimbursement might affect total Medicaid program savings per recipient death, as well as analyze reductions: in hospice readmission rates, in the length of time patients stay in hospice, in deaths in hospitals, and in reduced use of emergency departments. A well-designed study conducted by an experienced group of health services researchers will contribute to the Medicaid program's understanding of potential cost savings.

For these reasons we support **HB1511 Maryland Department of Health – Study on Maryland Medical Assistance Program Reimbursement of Hospice Room and Board** and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Linda Bergofsky and Wayne Berman, Co-Chairs
Montgomery County Commission on Aging

Department of Health and Human Services