



# *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 493.** SB 493, as introduced and amended, strengthens protections for nursing home residents regarding involuntary discharge or transfers. Specifically, it closes a longstanding loophole in the notice of involuntary discharge/transfer, as well as ensuring discharge placement is safe, secure, and sustainable for residents.

One of the most important provisions in SB 493 is the requirement that all residents, not only those who have lived in a facility for 30 days, receive a minimum of 30 days' written notice before an involuntary discharge or transfer occurs. This long-needed update ensures that older adults and their caregivers have sufficient time to understand the discharge decision, seek assistance, file an appeal if necessary, and arrange safe, appropriate next steps. Predictable notice is a basic protection, and SB 493 guarantees it for all residents.

Equally critical is the bill's requirement that any involuntary discharge must result in a placement that is safe, secure, and sustainable. MSCAN members see firsthand the consequences when individuals are discharged to locations that cannot meet their needs. SB 493 sets a clear expectation that receiving settings must be prepared and appropriate, and that a post-discharge plan must include essential information, including the resident's intended address. These protections help prevent residents from being discharged to temporary or unsafe environments, reduce the risk of cycles of crisis and re-entry into institutional care, and promote stable community living.

These protections can strengthen care coordination across Maryland's long-term services and supports system. When transitions are planned, supported, and safe, older adults remain healthier, caregivers experience less stress, and community resources can be deployed more effectively. SB 493, and its amendments, promotes consistency, accountability, and transparency, improving the experience of residents and families while supporting the broader continuum of care.

For these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report for SB 493.