



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

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall
Chair, House Health Committee
241 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 860- Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund- Establishment - 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) 860 - Department of Aging - Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment. SB 860 would establish a new Aging Resilience Fund, a special nonlapsing fund at the Department of Aging, which will give the Department of Aging more flexibility in the future to receive and leverage philanthropic funding and other sources of private funding. The bill also proposes important guardrails so that any spending from the fund must be aligned with the Department of Aging's mission and work.

It is critical that as Maryland's older adult population grows, we invest in healthy aging programs and supports. Federal and state funding supporting older people has not kept pace with steady population growth. An effective Aging Resilience Fund at the Department of Aging that ideally grows over time with outside investments will allow more older Marylanders to stay in their homes and communities. This bill offers a creative path forward during a constrained budget climate by establishing this critical funding infrastructure. Further, this bill complements multiple initiatives at the Maryland Department of Health that support older Marylanders in the places and communities within which they live.

Additionally, this bill directly aligns with the Longevity-Ready Maryland Plan, which will provide the roadmap for the Department of Aging to work in partnership with the General Assembly over the next ten years to make Maryland more prepared for increasingly longer lives. Sustained partnerships with philanthropy is a priority identified in the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, as well as pursuing funding from other public and private sources. All of us at the Maryland Department of Health stand ready in support of our colleagues at the Department

of Aging in support of their successful execution of the Longevity Ready Maryland Plan, and we support a favorable response for SB 860.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Meghan Lynch, Director 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