



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 530. This bill strengthens community supports, reinforces existing best practices, and ensures that older adults have greater opportunities to remain connected, healthy, and engaged. Specifically, this legislation expands the allowable uses of the Maryland Department of Aging's aging-in-place grant program to include multigenerational third places. Multigenerational third places are defined as a community space other than a home or workplace that fosters social connection, events, and gatherings among people of different ages.

Our coalition knows that older adults want to remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Yet aging in place requires more than services alone. It also requires social connection and accessible environments where older adults can interact, participate, and feel valued. Multigenerational third places, such as libraries, public parks, community centers and more are critical for maintaining relationships and preventing social isolation – a significant concern facing many older adults today.

In addition, SB 530 will allow senior villages, a cornerstone of Maryland's aging-in-place infrastructure, to use grant funds to cover operational, administrative, and rental for a senior village to provide access to multigenerational third places. Many senior villages rely on community spaces to host programs, run volunteer operations, and build connections that help older adults remain independent. This update to statute will help villages continue and build upon these services.

Lastly, while SB 530 expands the use of grant funds, it also highlights a broader need: Maryland must expand overall investment in aging services if we are to meet the needs of our rapidly growing older population. The demand for aging-in-place supports, caregiver assistance, dementia care, transportation, and social connection programs continues to outpace current resources. We urge the General Assembly to view SB 530 as an essential step, but only a step, toward a more comprehensive, sustainably funded system of supports for older Marylanders.

For these reasons, our coalition respectfully urges a favorable report on SB 530.