



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 24, 2026

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

HB 0811 SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bagnall, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Betsy Carrier and I serve on the Montgomery County Commission on Aging and was the founder of the Bradley Hills Village 10 years ago. I am speaking on behalf of the Commission on Aging in strong support of House Bill 0811, Aging-in-Place Programs – Grants – Multigenerational Third Places (The Village Multigenerational Third Places Act), sponsored by Delegate Sarah Wolek.

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging was established in 1974 and is authorized by the Older Americans Act to advise 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. We believe HB0811 represents an important and timely evolution of the Village model. Villages demonstrate that older adults thrive when they are socially connected, supported by neighbors, and able to remain active participants in their communities. However, many Villages—particularly those serving diverse and lower-income communities—face persistent barriers to accessing affordable, welcoming spaces where members can gather, build relationships, and connect across generations.

The concept of multigenerational third places directly addresses this challenge. By authorizing grant funding to support social connection through events and gatherings in shared community spaces outside the home or workplace, HB0811 strengthens Villages and expands their reach.

These spaces foster inclusion, reduce social isolation, and create meaningful opportunities for engagement across generations—an approach that is especially critical in underserved areas where traditional Village infrastructure or dedicated meeting space may not exist.

The bill's flexibility to support operational and administrative costs, as well as short-term or long-term leases, will enable aging-in-place programs and senior Villages to establish sustainable hubs for engagement. These hubs can serve as anchors for social connection,

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volunteer coordination, educational programming, and partnerships with other community organizations. This flexibility is essential to equitable expansion of aging-in-place supports across Maryland.

HB0811 aligns with the goal of making Maryland a longevity-ready state by strengthening community infrastructure and supporting innovative models that reflect how people live and connect today. Multigenerational third places are not a departure from the Village movement; they are a natural and necessary next step in its evolution. We appreciate Delegate Wolek's leadership on this important issue and thank the Committee for its continued commitment to policies that help older adults remain engaged, connected, and supported in their communities.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Commission on Aging urges a favorable report on HB0811.

Sincerely,

Betsy Carrier

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