



# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*AARP Maryland*

*Alzheimer's  
Association,  
Maryland Chapters*

*Baltimore Jewish  
Council*

*Catholic Charities*

*Central Maryland  
Ecumenical Council*

*Church of the Brethren*

*Episcopal Diocese of  
Maryland*

*Housing Opportunities  
Commission of  
Montgomery County*

*Jewish Community  
Relations Council of  
Greater Washington*

*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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## **Testimony in Support of HB 804 – Department of Aging – Aging Resilience Fund - Establishment**

**Health Committee Hearing: Thursday, February 19, 2026**

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

Good afternoon, my name is Carol Lienhard. I am the retired Director of the Harford County Office on Aging, past President of the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging and current Co-Chair of the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network. I am here today in support of HB 804 which would establish a non-lapsing Aging Resilience Fund for the Maryland Department of Aging. This fund would be authorized to receive donations and contributions to be used to support the implementation of mission of the Department. In recognition of today's tight budget climate and in the face of a rapidly growing aging population, it makes sense to establish a fund which will enable the Department of Aging to receive funds from outside sources to start innovative programs and implement services to serve the needs of Maryland's seniors which might not be possible without external help.

I come to you with positive personal experience with such a revolving fund established for the Harford County Office on Aging. Our fund was established by the Harford County Council to enable the community to make donations to meet the emergency needs of Harford County Seniors. It grew from an initial \$63.00 to more than \$11,000 through fund-raising efforts, donations from community organizations and United Way contributions from county employees. Over the past 25 years, we have been able to meet the emergency needs of hundreds of seniors identified by our outreach staff when there was nowhere else to turn.

At the State level, such a non-lapsing fund could provide a repository for outside donations from both individuals and organizations to further the mission of the Maryland Department of Aging as they work to meet the needs of Maryland's seniors, their families and caregivers. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 804 to establish the Aging Resilience Fund for the Maryland Department of Aging. We look forward to a favorable report.