



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 31, 2026

Bill Number: SB 809

Bill Title: Supporting our Caregiver Infrastructure Program - Feasibility Study

Committee: House Health Committee

MDOA Position: **INFORMATION**

Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this informational testimony on SB 809 - Supporting our Caregiver Infrastructure Program - Feasibility Study.

MDOA serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal and state funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. MDOA currently administers two caregiver support programs: the National Family Caregiver Support Program¹ which provides funding to the AAAs for caregiver-focused assistance like counseling, support groups, training, and some direct respite care, as well as an evidence-based virtual hub for caregiver workshops.² MDOA administers a dementia, cognitive and behavioral health navigation program at the state and AAA levels, to better serve older adults living with dementia and their caregivers. This program recently launched a new online tool, the Johns Hopkins Memory Care Family Checklist Tool geared at better supporting people experiencing cognitive health changes and their caregivers.³ MDOA has a full-time staff member focused on

¹ MDOA, National Family Caregiver Support Program, available at: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/national-family-caregiver-support.aspx>

² MD Living Well Center for Excellence, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, available at: <https://mdlivingwell.org/programs/powerful-tools-for-caregivers/>

³ MDOA, Memory Care Family Checklist, available at: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/MemoryCareChecklist.aspx>



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caregiving work and recently received a competitive federal grant award to further Maryland's work in this space, in collaboration with the Maryland Commission on Caregiving. MDOA's caregiving staff chairs the Commission on Caregiving.

As amended, this bill would require the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) to consult with the Department of Human Services (MD DHS) to inform the University of Maryland, College Park in conducting this feasibility study. MDOA would be well positioned to share information on its caregiving work to date, and share input about potential future federal, state and local funding sources. MDOA could also share useful input on potential administrative needs, costs, and operating costs. MDOA is appreciative of the sponsor's intent to increase support for caregivers.

MDOA notes there are currently two unfunded caregiver grant programs already in existence as result of past legislation.⁴ Neither has any history of funding since their establishment. The feasibility study performed by the University of Maryland would be well served by a close review of these existing funding vehicles as well as any associated administrative needs or costs, and operating costs to potentially fund these in the future.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Andrea Nunez with any questions or concerns: andrea.nunez@maryland.gov, 443-414-8183.

⁴ See, MD Human Services Article 10-1202 et seq. (Caregiver Expense Grant Program), MD Human Services Article 10-702 et seq (Family Caregiver Assistance Program).