



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

*Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters*

*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*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:
Carol Lienhard
Megan Peters
410-921-9005*

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 HB 323. This bill creates a state income tax credit for Marylanders who incur income taxes and early-withdrawal penalties because they were financially exploited and had to withdraw retirement funds as a result.

Fraud and financial exploitation pose severe risks to older Marylanders, especially those living on fixed or modest incomes. Older adults are disproportionately targeted by scammers, in part because they are often perceived as having more financial assets and may be less familiar with technology. National research also shows that aging-related cognitive changes, social isolation, and declines in financial literacy increase susceptibility to fraud among people over 60. According to the National Institute of Justice, in 2023 more than 101,000 adults aged 60 and older reported fraud to the FBI, highlighting the scale of criminal activity aimed at older adults. The actual number of fraud cases is unknown as many people do not report their victimization, and underreporting is especially high for older adults.

Fraud victims have already experienced financial trauma, and HB 323 would alleviate some of the pain for fraud victims. MSCAN urges a favorable report.