

TO: The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Annie Coble
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Johns Hopkins **supports HB 498, Department of Aging-Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs-Funding.** Johns Hopkins has several innovative programs to assist the aging population to remain safely in their homes for as long as possible. These programs have been incredibly successful in improving the quality of life for the aging population and reducing health care costs. Making more funding available for these programs, and programs like these, will only continue to improve the lives of the growing aging population.

The Johns Hopkins programs that best demonstrate the importance of funding Aging-in-Place programs are:

- Community Aging in Place-Advancing Better Living for Elders (CAPABLE). CAPABLE is a program developed at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing for low-income seniors to safely age in place. The program consists of time-limited services from an occupational therapist, a nurse, and a handy worker working in tandem with the older adult as an inter-professional team. Each service builds on the others by increasing the participants' capacity to function at home. This can decrease hospitalizations and nursing home stays by improving medication management, problem-solving ability, strength, balance, mobility, nutrition, and home safety, while decreasing isolation, depression, and fall risk. Roughly \$3,000 in program costs yielded more than \$20,000 in savings in medical costs driven by reductions in both inpatient and outpatient expenditures.
- Hopkins ElderPlus (HEP) and Program of All-Inclusive Care for Elderly (PACE). HEP is Johns Hopkins' PACE program, designed to provide and coordinate all needed services to allow older individuals to continue living in the community. In addition to the traditional Medicare services, participants can receive physical therapy beyond the normal Medicare limits, as well as dentures, eyeglasses, and hearing aids, at no cost. Doctors or nurse practitioners make home visits, and home health aides may help with hygiene, light housekeeping, and other chores. If a home inspection reveals safety hazards, HEP will make appropriate home modifications including installation of staircase railings, handheld showers, and air conditioners. Participants have access to a 24-hour hotline which allows a participant or family member to speak to a geriatrician at any time. These programs have proven to

produce savings to the State. The annual cost to Maryland for a HEP participant is approximately \$36,000 compared to \$72,000 for a nursing home, and the program allows people to stay in their community, where they prefer to be.

This bill creates opportunities for programs as innovative and effective as those listed above to be accessible to a greater population and improve the well-being and health of the State's aging population. For those reasons, Johns Hopkins **urges a favorable report for HB 498, Department of Aging-Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs-Funding.**

cc: Members of the Appropriation Committee
Delegate Terri Hill