

**HB 498 Department of Aging – Grants for Aging in Place Programs – Funding
SUPPORT
House Appropriations Committee
February 11, 2020**

Good Afternoon Chairwoman McIntosh and members of the House Appropriations Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan and I am the Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. As you may know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the Free State, encompassing almost 900,000 members. I am here today representing AARP MD and its members in support of **HB 498 Department of Aging – Grants for Aging in Place Program – Funding.**

AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

HB 498 requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill \$1,000,000 for the purpose of making state grants to nonprofit organizations and area agencies on aging to fund programs to help expand and establish aging-in-place programs for seniors and it requires at least 10 percent of the funding used to support senior villages.

Research shows that older adults prefer to remain in their homes for as long as they are able to do so.¹ Wherever people live, they need access to health care and support services. Communities become a source of support and engagement for residents, particularly for older adults, who have an even stronger desire to age in place. The AARP survey finds many adults age 50 and older are willing to consider alternatives such as home sharing (32%), building an accessory dwelling unit (31%) and villages that provide services that enable aging in place (56%).²

The Village concept aims to “support the medical, functional, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of older adults. Residents create Villages to help coordinate and deliver services and supports within their communities. Villages reflect their communities through variations in design, capacity, and

¹ Joanne Binette and Kerri Vasold, 2018 Home & Community-Based Preferences: A National Survey of Adults Age 18 Plus. Washington, DC. AARP Research, August, 2018. Available as of July 17, 2019 at, <https://www.aarp.org/research/topics/community/info-2018/2018-home-community-preference.html>

² IBID

operation. Many older adults join these Villages because of a desire to remain in their homes and not be dependent on family members and friends.³

AARP supports HB 498, AARP believes Marylanders as they age should be able to remain in their homes close to their lifelong family and friends with adequate services and supports. We respectfully requests the Appropriations Committee to issue a favorable report. For questions please contact Tammy Bresnahan at tbresnahan@aarp.org .

³ Jean C. Accius, PhD AARP Public Policy Institute, 2018 <https://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/liv-com/fs177-village.pdf>