



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 584 - Day Care Centers for Elderly and Adults - Reimbursement House Appropriations Committee February 25, 2020

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 and care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN strongly supports HB 584 which would provide much-needed help for Maryland's Adult Medical Day Centers by providing reimbursement for a minimum of 4 hours of care on a day when the center might have to close for a weather emergency or in a case where a participant has to leave the center for a medical emergency. When centers are not reimbursed the Medicaid rate of just \$82.24 per day for weather or medical emergencies, they must still cover fixed costs such as wages and benefits for staff, rent, as well as transportation costs to and from the centers. This creates a real financial strain on centers, many of which are struggling to stay open. One MSCAN member organization reports that the last non-profit Adult Medical Day Care Center in their county has closed. Now all low-income seniors have to go many miles to Baltimore County for Adult Medical Day Care services. HB 584 provides a remedy to help centers which operate on a shoestring to serve the lowest income vulnerable seniors. In Montgomery County, one of their oldest and most-respected Adult Medical Day Centers will be closing on March 20, 2020. In spite of more than \$5 million in philanthropy over the last ten years, the center reports that it loses \$2,000 a day due to the high costs of serving their very frail participants, some with dementia and others with complicated diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis which may require feeding-tubes. In order to provide quality service to their clients, the center needs to hire one staff member for every 3 or 4 participants, plus the cost of specialized paratransit services for these health-impaired individuals. A loss of \$2,000 a day is clearly unsustainable for any center. Participant fees and government support fall far short of the need.

The support outlined by HB 584 seems particularly fair when it is realized that nursing homes have protection from loss of income through the **bed-hold process**. When a resident is in the hospital, nursing facilities are reimbursed the **full** Medicaid rate of \$273 per day. Please note that Adult Medical Day Care Centers can serve **more than three** participants for the price of one day in a nursing home!

MSCAN respectfully requests a favorable report on this bill to enable this much-needed service to survive in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.