



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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House Bill HB0255
Department of Aging – Grants for Aging-in-Place Programs - Funding
Appropriations – January 19, 2021
SUPPORT VETO OVERRIDE

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club** (WDC) for the 2021 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic Clubs in our County with hundreds of politically active women and men, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the immediate Veto override of HB0255 that passed last session by both House and Senate and sent to the Governor. This bill will help provide funding for programs to support aging-in-place options and services for seniors and will help our aging women remain in their communities, enabling them to thrive in a safe and dignified environment near their support systems as long as possible. This bill helps provide an important safety net for seniors, and also fulfills goals set by the Maryland Department of Aging (MDA), the Montgomery County's Commission on Aging, and other area agencies dedicated to our aging population. One of MDA's goals is to "enable seniors to reside in the most appropriate and safest living arrangements within the community for as long as possible."

Many issues facing seniors are increasingly urgent as the population ages. According to the MDA and the U.S. Census Bureau, the senior population is growing, both in absolute terms and as a percent of the total population of the state. In Montgomery County alone the number of seniors (age 65+) is projected to more than double between 2010 and 2040.

Although providing an aging-in-place services infrastructure benefits all older citizens, it particularly impacts aging women. As Maryland's population ages, women increasingly outnumber men and consistently lead men in poverty rates. Expanding aging-in-place options for senior women in Maryland and Montgomery County improves quality of life by keeping them in their communities near family and friends, with local access to caregiver support and medical services.

We ask for your support for HB0255 and strongly urge a favorable Committee report for an immediate Veto override.

Respectfully,

Diana Conway
President