



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*

*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
Sarah Mücke
410-542-4850*

Testimony in Support of SB3 and SB393- SB3 Preserve Telehealth Access Act of 2021 and Senate Bill 393 Maryland Medical Assistance Program and Health Insurance - Coverage and Reimbursement of Telehealth Services **Senate Finance Committee** **January 27, 2021**

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 enthusiastically supports both SB3 and SB393 for their potential to positively impact the lives of seniors by allowing more access to telehealth. Expanded use of telehealth has been a critical component in Maryland's effort to mitigate spread of the coronavirus. The service expansion has become a vital part of Maryland's continuum of care and it must be preserved well past the current pandemic. Specifically, the continued use of audio only telehealth has been invaluable to our Seniors who do not always have stable internet or have technological challenges to video health care.

While MSCAN supports both SB3 and SB393, SB393 includes three additional provisions, two of which would be seriously impactful to our seniors; 1. Protecting consumer choice, ensuring that a patient may not be required to use telehealth in lieu of an in-person visit and 2. extending reimbursement parity to telehealth services provide in the Medicaid program.

For these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report on SB3 and SB393