



# *Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network*

## **MSCAN**

*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*

*MSCAN Co-Chairs:  
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## **Testimony in Support of SB 511 – Human Services – Secretary of Aging – Qualifications**

### **Senate Finance Committee**

**February 24, 2022**

Good afternoon, my name is Carol Lienhard and I am here today in support of SB 511. I am representing the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network, a statewide coalition of organizations which supports policies that meet the housing, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low to moderate income seniors.

I began my career in 1980 with a Master's Degree in Aging from the University of Maryland. My testimony today is based on forty-two years of subsequent experience in the field of aging. I have served as the Director of the Harford County Office on Aging, a Past-President of the Maryland Association of Area Agencies on Aging and current Co-Chair of the Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network.

During this time, I have seen significant evolution in the complexity of aging services. Early on, services for seniors were primarily based on a social model offered in senior centers where older people could gather, enjoy meals together and participate in activities which helped avoid loneliness and isolation. As years went by and more seniors began to live longer, the health needs of our elderly began to require the aging network to include a medical model of programs and services to address not only social issues, but chronic health needs as well. These more complex programs such as Senior Care and the Medicaid Waiver require leaders to have the education and expertise to develop and administer effective solutions.

Right now, the number of elderly citizens in Maryland is increasing dramatically. Thus, it is more important than ever to choose future leaders of the Maryland Department of Aging who are prepared by both education and experience to effectively manage the wide range of complex and cost-effective programs and services needed to keep today's seniors healthy and active in their communities. SB 511 will help guide the selection of leaders who will be prepared to achieve these goals. Thank you for your understanding and your support.