



United Seniors of Maryland

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Senate Finance Committee Testimony for the United Seniors of Maryland January 25, 2022

Senate Bill 28 & House Bill 88 Home and Community Based Services Waiver- Participant and Application FAVORABLE SUPPORT

United Seniors of Maryland believes in safer, timely, accessible, and sustainable cost-effective care services for our most vulnerable senior and individuals with disabilities in the Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver.

PROBLEM: 8 Year REGISTRY WAITLIST- Problematic Application Process

GOAL: ZERO REGISTRY & NO WAIT TIME & User-Friendly Applications

Answer: SB 28 helps to fix the program! Our neighbors in Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey have fixed their wait list to zero and still save money.

Maryland's financially flush state, we must make seniors and individuals with disabilities our state's priority to correct the wait list and application process. SB 28 helps to correct the 8-year REGISTRY wait lists with over 22,000 citizens and growing.

SB Corrects:

- **Eliminates 8 year wait list within 12 months!**
- **Require HCBW Waiver to meet the growing and projected demand for services**
- **Require eligible services to be implemented within 30 days of authorization**
- **Disclose timely and regular update on the status of exact place on the Registry and estimated time to move towards services.**

Fully implement our Medicaid Waiver safety nets and favorably pass SB 28.

United Seniors of Maryland is a non-profit consortium of organizations and individuals who advocate for preservation and enhancing the mental, physical, and financial well-being of older adults in Maryland. Member organizations reach out to more than 3 million Marylanders. Member organizations include State and local governments, non-profits, associations, area agencies on aging, unions, retired state and federal workers, commissions on aging in each county, senior centers, provider groups interested in the welfare of seniors, retirement communities, and other consumer groups.