



# *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 on Bill HB 731**

#### **Position: Favorable with Amendment**

#### **Department of Aging - Dementia Care Coordinator and Dementia Care Navigation Programs**

**February 17, 2022**

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

MSCAN supports this legislation, which requires an ongoing appropriation to support dementia caregiving at each of Maryland's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), who would be mandated to create a dementia care navigation (DCN) program.

This program would be responsible for providing:

- support for family caregivers, including assistance with care planning and connections to support groups and education;
- aid in the development of dementia-friendly communities, including outreach events and professional consultations;
- and work to offer cognitive screenings, to help identify individuals with dementia.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) will be required to distribute funding (via grants) to each AAA, based on a formula which considers the number of people with dementia in each county.

MSCAN does ask for one amendment. In considering the formula, we believe it would be best if the Assembly—in its wisdom—considers codifying a baseline amount for each county. While the amount distributed among counties can and should definitely vary, as each region has different numbers of people with dementia, it is vital that no one county be shortchanged in its efforts. And that even the smallest counties have the opportunity and means to implement this mandate.

Thanks again for the opportunity to submit testimony. We urge a favorable report, with this amendment included.