



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 in Support of Bill HB 449 Property Tax - Renters' Property Tax Relief Program - Application Period Ways and Means Committee 02/08/2022

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 HB 449, which would extend the amount of time an income eligible renter who is at least 70 years old must apply to be eligible for the property tax relief program from one year to three years.

COVID-19 has amplified the rental crisis in Maryland and our seniors have not been immune. Many of our seniors are on fixed incomes and struggle with meeting their basic needs. Seniors struggling to pay rent will forgo healthy food options or delay healthcare and getting needed medications, putting their lives at risk. Even before Covid, 29% of extremely low-income Marylanders were Seniors.¹

HB 449 simply gives our seniors more time to apply. A lot of seniors may not know about this tax credit when they first move into their rental property. Giving them more time to apply from one year to three years would help ensure more seniors take advantage of the tax credit.

For the reasons stated above, MSCAN urges a favorable report on HB 449. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ <https://reports.nlihc.org/gap>