

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 875 –  
Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program

Senate Finance Committee  
March 1, 2024

As an organization deeply committed to the well-being of seniors and aging adults in Maryland, EveryMind is proud to offer our strong endorsement of Senate Bill 875 - the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

EveryMind provides services and programs to older adults in Montgomery County that enhance their quality of life and promote independence. We understand firsthand the importance of fostering social connections and providing comprehensive support to seniors as they age in place. The need to invest in community support for aging Marylanders has never been timelier – in the next 6 years, it is expected that 22% of Maryland’s population will be 60 or older.

The village model, which this bill seeks to further develop through a pilot program, has shown immense promise in empowering seniors to remain active and engaged in their communities. By offering volunteer-led services such as transportation, grocery shopping assistance, and social activities, villages play a critical role in combating social isolation and promoting overall well-being among older adults.

SB875 represents a crucial opportunity to expand access to these invaluable resources and services for seniors across Maryland. By establishing a pilot program that focuses on growing the village community, older adults will be supported to age in place in their own homes and strategies to meet the needs of older adults will be expanded.

Moreover, this pilot program aligns perfectly with our vision of creating a more age-friendly Maryland. By investing in initiatives that prioritize social connection and community support, we can ensure that seniors have the resources and assistance they need to age with dignity and independence.

In conclusion, EveryMind wholeheartedly supports SB875 and urges lawmakers to prioritize its passage. By coming together to support our aging population, we can build a stronger, more resilient community for all Marylanders.

Thank you for considering our testimony and for your continued commitment to supporting seniors in our state.