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AND PACIFIC ISLANDER CAUCUS
MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Dear Chair Biedle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

As the Chair of the Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus, I am writing to express our unequivocal support for SB875/HB1103, which proposes the establishment of the Miriam Kelyt Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program within the Maryland Department of Aging.

The Miriam Kelyt Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program represent an essential step forward in enhancing and expanding these efforts. By centralizing administrative tasks and fostering collaboration among Villages, this pilot program aims to address the unique challenges villages face in diverse and lower-income communities, thereby ensuring that more seniors can age in place with dignity and support.

The Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus recognizes the importance of such initiatives in promoting the health, independence, and social connectivity of older adults across Maryland. The proposed bill aligns with our commitment to advocating for policies that support the diverse needs of our aging population.

We commend Delegate Wolek for introducing this significant legislation and thank all advocates for their dedication to advancing this cause. The lessons learned from the collective impact of Montgomery County's Villages, underscore the potential of the Hub and Spoke model to transform senior living and community support systems across our state.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the Committee to grant a favorable report on SB875/HB1103. We stand ready to provide further information or assistance to support this bill's successful passage.

Thank you for considering our support for this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Harry Bhandari
Chair, Maryland Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus