

Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
March 1, 2024
On behalf of Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA)
In support of SB875.
Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program
Submitted by Elizabeth Carrier

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Elizabeth Carrier and I am honored to have the opportunity to testify in support of SB875 the Miriam Kelty Aging and Senior Social Connection Hub and Spoke Pilot Program.

I serve on the Montgomery County Commission on Aging (CoA) and I am speaking on behalf of the Commission. I also am a founder and past Board Chair of the Bradley Hills Village in Bethesda.

The Commission believes that villages are vital contributors to the well-being of older adults. This is accomplished as villages provide services and programs that help reduce social isolation and help older adults age in place in their communities. Testing and providing additional administrative support in a hub and spoke model, as described in SB875, will be an important way to expand the village movement.

SB 875 will provide needed administrative support through a “hub and spoke” program that provides administrative services to villages. This program will assist in the growth of villages in diverse and lower income communities and will help to ensure the sustainability and efficiency of existing villages. The proposed pilot will centralize tasks so that participating villages can share their expertise and maintain and increase services and events that are offered. The pilot can make an important contribution to learning, testing, and developing best practices for this model of village management. This innovative model can offer insights to villages across Maryland and help the Department of Aging with their mission to make Maryland Longevity Ready.

With great appreciation for this initiative and all good wishes for its success, we urge favorable consideration for SB875.

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The Commission is authorized by the Older Americans Act, P.L. 116-131, and was established by Montgomery County in 1974 to advise Montgomery County government on the needs, interests, and issues of older adult residents, and to advocate on their behalf at the local, state and national levels.

Additional questions contact:
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