



# *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 House Bill 451 – Tax Assistance for Low-Income Marylanders - Funding House Ways & Means Committee February 8, 2024**

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 recognizes the challenges that come with aging and limited financial resources and therefore supports House Bill 451. This legislation would distribute abandoned property funds to the Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund and allocate \$800,000 in the annual budget for the CASH Campaign of Maryland to award grants for providing essential tax assistance through mobile tax clinics.

Many seniors, especially those on fixed incomes, face difficulties navigating the complexities of tax systems and are often unaware of available assistance programs. The Tax Clinics for Low-Income Marylanders Fund provides a lifeline for seniors who need guidance and support understanding their tax obligations and maximizing available benefits. Allocating abandoned property funds to this fund is a compassionate and practical solution to addressing the unique needs of the senior population.

Furthermore, we commend the proposal to allocate \$800,000 in the annual budget for the CASH Campaign. This financial support will enable the CASH Campaign to expand its reach through on-demand and mobile tax clinics, ensuring that seniors who may have mobility challenges or reside in underserved communities can still access vital tax assistance services. This approach is particularly crucial for our senior population, and it recognizes the diverse circumstances and needs of seniors across Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation, we respectfully request that you support HB 451.