Heaver Plaza
1301 York Road, #505
Lutherville, MD 21093
phone 443.901.1550
fax 443.901.0038
www.mhamd.org

**Senate Bill 113 – Human Services – Department of Aging and Commission on Aging
(The Longevity Ready Maryland Act)**
Senate Finance Committee
January 28, 2026
Position: SUPPORT

Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) is a nonprofit education and advocacy organization that brings together consumers, families, clinicians, advocates and concerned citizens for unified action in all aspects of mental health and substance use disorders (collectively referred to as behavioral health). We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of SB 113.

Throughout much of 2024 and 2025, the Department of Aging, along with scores of stakeholders, worked to craft a robust multi-sector plan for aging, as was directed in Governor Moore's Executive Order of January 2024. This plan, Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM), was the result of a highly collaborative effort between the Department and multiple interested parties, to ensure that Maryland is prepared to meet the needs of a growing older adult population with multi-sector action.

Specifically, regarding the behavioral health needs of older adults, LRM proposes several key measures. Goals are to:

- Enhance social connections among older adults to promote well-being and reduce depression
- Improve hospital discharge policies for at-risk adults
- Improve access to services for people with disabilities
- Take a holistic approach to care and address a person's physical, behavioral, and cognitive health
- Expand access to community-based behavioral health services that address long-term care needs

It is critical that the extensive and promising work done thus far is preserved and continues to move forward. SB 113 will accomplish this by putting LRM into statute, tasking the Secretary of the Department of Aging with implementation of LRM, and ensuring that progress continues by requiring annual reports to the legislature.

For these reasons, MHAMD supports SB 113 and urges a favorable report.

For more information, please contact Ann Geddes at (443) 926-3396