

SUPPORTING SENIORS:

Empowering Marylanders to Age Comfortably and with Dignity

BACKGROUND:

Maryland is home to nearly 1.4 million people over the age of 60, and according to our most recent State Plan on Aging, we will see considerable growth in the older adult population in the next two decades. In fact, this age group is expected to grow to 1.7 million by 2040. Additionally, the population of Marylanders over the age of 85 will more than double in the same time period. This means Maryland's next governor must be prepared to expand public long-term services and supports across health care, housing and transportation. Our next governor will also need to be prepared to address growing concerns around elder abuse, exploitation, and fraud in order to protect aging Marylanders.

WES' EXPERIENCE:

When Wes was just three years old, his father died in front of him from a treatable disease. This has shaped Wes' fundamental view that health care is a basic right, and that right extends to older adults. Wes firmly believes every Marylander deserves to age safely and with dignity. As CEO of one of the nation's largest organizations fighting poverty, Wes worked to strengthen the home health care workforce, which is key to ensuring older adults can age in place. Under his leadership, the organization provided critical training for home health care workers, empowering them to secure better wages and working conditions while preparing them to provide higher quality care to those they work with.

THE WES MOORE VISION:

Every Marylander deserves the opportunity to age comfortably and with dignity, honoring their lives and contributions to our state. As governor, Wes will:

- Improve state and local service delivery for Maryland's seniors by filling vacancies and increasing staffing levels at Maryland's Department of Aging (MDOA), educating the public about the services offered by MDOA, and strengthening the Maryland Access Point, our state's No Wrong Door single point of entry service.
- Improve access to affordable housing and support seniors' ability to safely age-in-place by funding additional slots and reducing wait times for the Community Options Waiver so seniors have access to home-based care, increasing access to remote patient monitoring, expanding access to funding for accessible home modifications and finding new ways to provide financial support to family caregivers.
- Lower the cost of prescription drugs by empowering the Prescription Drug Affordability Board to review costs and set limits for prescription drugs, exploring bulk purchasing pools, and leveraging the state's purchasing power to drive down costs.
- Improve existing long-term care facilities by leveraging federal dollars to ensure better oversight and compliance, addressing staffing shortages and fighting for better wages for nursing home staff.
- Combat elder abuse, exploitation, and fraud by partnering with community organizations to increase training for older Marylanders about their rights, as well as home health care workers, law enforcement officers and family members so they can more easily recognize and report these incidents.



“Every Marylander deserves to age safely, with dignity and respect, and they should be able to do so comfortably in their own homes. As governor, I will work to honor the lives and contributions of older Marylanders to our state by expanding access to the critical care and services they need.” – Wes Moore



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