



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball
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November 16, 2021

Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
420 Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Delegate Courtney Watson, House Delegation Chair
Howard County Delegation
216 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT:** Ho. Co. Legislative Bond Initiative: Bain 50+ Center

Dear Chair Lam, Chair Watson and Delegation Members,

I am proud to express my support for this project, which would establish funding to improve the Bain 50+ Center to support Howard County's older adult population.

The Bain 50+ Center has supported older Howard County residents for over 40 years. Through its attentive staff and creative programming, Bain brings older adults together to engage with each other and reduce isolation and loneliness. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily affected seniors' ability to use the space for social engagement, health, wellness, and life planning. Thanks to our community's steadfast effort to vaccinate our older adults, the Bain Center was able to reopen earlier this year. As our community continues to recover from the pandemic, improvements to the Bain Center could encourage more eligible residents to use this space.

Delegation support for the \$350,000 bond bill initiative will address identified needs to help the Bain Center serve our age-friendly community. Funding will go towards the replacement of the Center's original lobby skylights to improve energy efficiency and introduce natural light to the building. Funds will also allow Bain to update existing lobbying furniture to that can support mobility-impaired individuals and be easily cleaned and disinfected. These improvements will make Bain more bright, welcoming, and visitor friendly.

Howard County is in the process of becoming an AARP Age-Friendly Community and recently won the prestigious 2021 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Howard County was only one of four prize winners nationwide and the only prize winner in the East Coast. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded Howard County this honor because it recognized our community's commitment to advancing health, equity, and opportunity for all regardless of age.



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The Bain 50+ Center supports this commitment by providing an affirming space for our older adults. I urge your support for this project so that current and future Bain Center users can live their best lives.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Calvin Ball', is written in a cursive style.

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive