

FAVORABLE

TO: Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Suzanne Wronsky

My name is Sue Wronsky and I am a resident of Potomac. I am submitting this testimony **in support** of SB 505 - Department of Aging - Dementia Care Coordinator and Dementia Care Navigators

Dementia is a cruel, complicated disease. There is no ongoing, state-specific support to help these dementia caregivers. SB 505 is a solution, and I urge the Committee to support this bill and require this initiative which will help our state's dementia caregivers.

My father cared for my mother who had Alzheimer's disease at home for 11 years until her death. His path would've been much more manageable had the state where they lived had a program like this, which offers support for family caregivers, including assistance with care planning and connections to support groups and education; will aid in the development of dementia- friendly communities, including outreach events and professional consultations; and will work to offer cognitive screenings, to help identify individuals with dementia.

I support this legislation, which requires an ongoing appropriation to support dementia caregiving at each of Maryland's Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), who would be mandated to create a dementia care navigation (DCN) program.

On behalf of the more than 238,000 caregivers in the state of Maryland, I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you.

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