

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters
HB 353 - Maryland Health Care Commission – User Fee Assessments
Position: Favorable

Chair Pendergrass and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk,

My name is Eric Colchamiro, Director of Government Affairs for the Alzheimer's Association in Maryland, and here today to ask for your support of HB 353. This legislation increases the maximum amount, from \$16,000,000 to \$20,000,000, of user fees the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) may assess against hospitals, nursing homes, payors, and health care practitioners to cover the actual documented direct costs of fulfilling the statutory and regulatory duties of the Commission

MHCC is an independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) with a mission to plan for health system needs, promote informed decision making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policymakers, purchasers, providers, and the public.

This entity is an invaluable, nonpartisan part of good government in Maryland. During the current Session, in addition to recently enacted legislation around prescription drug affordability and telehealth, the Alzheimer's Association is pleased to partner with Delegate Belcastro and Senator Beidle on legislation which will require MHCC to look, deeply, into the structural issues around Maryland's over 1200 assisted living facilities with nine or fewer beds. The result will be an analysis which helps us improve the quality of care for seniors across Maryland.

These complex issues are ripe for policymaking, yet certain advocates alone do not know the answers. MHCC's role as a convener, both of advocates and policymakers, is an essential function for Maryland's complex healthcare environment. The Alzheimer's Association supports this legislation, and a secure and stable future for MHCC.