

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters  
**HB 1149 - Medicaid Waiver Programs - Waitlist and Registry Reduction (End the Wait Act)**  
Position: Favorable

Chair Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Cullison,

The Alzheimer's Association – representing the over 110,000 Marylanders with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, along with their caregivers – writes in support of HB 1149. This legislation authorizes certain Medicaid funding to be used for hiring and retaining providers in certain waiver programs; and alters the uses of certain funding appropriated to the Dedicated Purpose Account in the fiscal year 2023 budget bill.

This legislation – including but not limited to the home and community-based services waiver – can help people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, who need access to care so that they can age in place. The need, as this bill notes, is partially based on the lack of available providers.

We applaud this solution and encourage passage of this bill, as one aspect of helping seniors in need, and reducing the historic and unnecessary wait lists that Maryland has had.