



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: House Bill 614 - Department of Aging - Dementia Care Coordinator and Dementia Care Navigation Programs

COMMITTEES: House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2023

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

The **Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA)** is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 18,000 older adults living in CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA SUPPORTS efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

On behalf of the Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association, we support House Bill 614 which establishes a Dementia Care Coordinator position in the Department of Aging. The number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias will increase each year as our population ages. That number will escalate rapidly in coming years as the baby boomer generation ages. We see the leading edge of baby boomers in our communities now.

We have many residents in independent apartments that have dementia besides those in assisted living, memory care, and in nursing care. Many of our members provide specialized memory care or dementia related care.

We know that the course of dementia is as varied as the individuals who experience it. We know that there is no way to predict how long someone may live with the disease. We know that people who are living with dementia can still experience joy, connection and love.

People with dementia live in our neighborhoods all over Maryland and need the support that this position would provide.

We support the HB 614 because it would add resources to address the needs of caregivers and people with dementia. This position will raise the level of consciousness about the experience of having this disease and loving someone with this disease. We need to educate the community about this disease and the people providing the care whether in a senior living setting or in their home.

For these reasons we support House Bill 614 and ask for a favorable report.

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