

April Seitz
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February 18,

2026

Maryland House of Delegates
Judiciary Committee

Re: House Bill 634, Police Training - Autism and Dementia (LEAD Act of 2026)

The Honorable Chairperson of MD House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of House Bill 634, *Training - Autism and Dementia (LEAD Act of 2026)*. As more Maryland families are caring for children and/or aging family members with autism or dementia, the need for awareness and support from our police is greatly needed.

Family caregivers caring for their loved ones with autism or dementia at home, often rely on the assistance of police as first responders to a behavioral crisis such as wandering, getting lost, etc.. In such situations, these families need to be confident that when they call upon the police for help, the police will have the knowledge and awareness to respond appropriately to children, the aged, and other vulnerable individuals with autism or dementia.

Passage of this bill would be greatly appreciated by the many family caregivers of our Maryland community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

April Seitz