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BILL NO.: SB 725

TITLE: Maryland Department of Health – Public Health Outreach Programs – Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer’s Disease, and Other Types of Dementia

SPONSOR: Senator Lam

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 12, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 725 – Maryland Department of Health – Public Health Outreach Programs – Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer’s disease, and Other Types of Dementia. This legislation would require that the Maryland Department of Health partner with a number of other health-centered organizations to provide public health outreach programs on aging, cognitive impairment, and Alzheimer’s disease.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, 110,000 Marylanders aged 65 and older are currently living with Alzheimer’s. Family caregivers often end up providing the lion’s share of care to individuals with the disease. There are also gaps in the knowledge health care providers have regarding prevention and treatment. Under SB 725, the Maryland Department of Health would coordinate with the Department of Aging, the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Council, and the Alzheimer’s Association to educate health care providers on the importance of early detection and the necessity of wellness checks. The coalition would also work to increase overall recognition and reduction of cognitive decline, particularly for black and Hispanic communities at a higher risk for the disease.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 725. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.