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**HB 456 Maryland Department of Health - Public Health Outreach Programs - Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's Disease, and Other Types of Dementia SUPPORT**

**House Health and Government Operations Committee  
February 12, 2020**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Pendergrass and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan. I am Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. I am here today representing AARP MD and its more than 870,000 members in support of **HB 456 Maryland Department of Health - Public Health Outreach Programs - Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's Disease, and Other Types of Dementia.**

As you may know, AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families. Key priorities of our organization include helping all Marylanders achieve financial and health security. In particular, AARP strongly believes that all individuals have the right to be self-reliant and live with dignity in retirement.

HB 456 requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in partnership with the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council, and the Alzheimer's Association, to incorporate information regarding cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and other types of dementia into relevant public health outreach programs to educate health care providers and increase public understanding and awareness. We thank Delegate Sample Hughes for bringing this important bill forward.

To promote and encourage greater positive outcomes for patients with cognitive impairment, health care providers at every level must be trained. Training should be accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate, provide information on culturally competent person- and family-centered care, and actively encourage consumer input.

AARP MD respectfully ask the House Health and Government Operations Committee for a favorable vote on HB 456. If you have questions, please contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy for AARP MD at 410-302-8451 or at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org).

