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MAYOR

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HB 1168

March 5, 2020

TO: Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee

FROM: Nicholas Blendy, Deputy Director of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 1168 – Maryland Department of Health – Residential Service Agencies – Training Requirements

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1168.

HB 1168 takes an important step in addressing the growing burden of Alzheimer's and other dementias on Maryland's older adults by requiring direct care and supervisory staff in residential service agencies to participate in dementia training.

The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 110,000 Marylanders 65 and over had Alzheimer's Disease in 2018, and that this number will grow to 130,000 by 2025¹. Data indicates 1 in 12 Maryland residents 45 years and older is experiencing Subjective Cognitive Decline (SCD), which is defined as self-reported memory problems that have been getting worse over the past year².

Dementia-specific training of care staff and supervisory staff will improve the quality of care that Maryland's older adults affected by dementia receive. Research

¹ "2018 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures," Alzheimer's Association.
<https://www.alz.org/professionals/public-health/state-overview/maryland>

² "Maryland Subjective Cognitive Decline 2017" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 23, 2019, <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/data/infographic/2017/maryland-cognitive-decline.html>

indicates that dementia specific training improves the capacity of direct care staff to provide care for patients with dementia³.

The Baltimore City Health Department is particularly concerned with the disproportionate burden of dementia in minority communities. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that "older African Americans are about two times more likely than older whites to have Alzheimer's or other dementias, and that "older Hispanics are about one and one-half times more likely than older whites to have Alzheimer's or other dementias⁴." Because two-thirds of Baltimore's older adults are African-American, we recognize that dementia disproportionately affects the people our agency serves.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request a **favorable** report on House Bill 1068.

³ Smyth, W., et al. (2013). A survey-based study of knowledge of Alzheimer's disease among health care staff. *BMC Geriatrics*, 13(1), 2. doi:10.1186/1471-2318-13-2

⁴ Alzheimer's Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Healthy Brain Initiative, State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map. Chicago, IL: Alzheimer's Association; 2018.