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MAYOR

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SB 275

February 4, 2021

TO: Members of the Finance Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 275 – Maryland Department of Health – Residential Services Agencies – Training Requirements

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 275.

SB 275 requires that new direct and supervisory staff of residential services agencies (RSAs) receive three hours of training on dementia related topics, including an overview of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, person centered care, and Alzheimer's disease and dementia-related behaviors and communication. An additional requirement is that these staff receive on-going training on Alzheimer's disease and dementia each year for a minimum of two hours.

RSAs provide a large proportion of the in-home services received by older adults and persons with disabilities in the State of Maryland. These services are financed by private pay purchase, Medicaid and State grants. RSAs are regulated by the Maryland Office of Health Care Quality and are an important part of the services supporting older adults as they seek to age in place. The persons RSAs serve resemble the residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities in their level of disability and include a significant number with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. SB 275 helps assure that the workforce providing care for persons with dementia in home settings will have some basic training and knowledge of dementia and how to provide care for those who suffer from it. Nursing homes and assisted living facilities are already required to provide similar training for their direct care staff.

We respectfully request a favorable report on SB 275.