



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

January 19, 2020

House Bill 119: Maryland Department of Health – Public Health Outreach Programs – Cognitive Impairment,  
Alzheimer’s Disease, and Other Types of Dementia  
*Written Testimony Only*

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 119. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

HFAM members provide the majority of post-acute and long-term care to Marylanders in need: 6 million days of care across all payer sources annually, including more than 4 million Medicaid days of care and one million Medicare days of care. Thousands of Marylanders across the state depend on the high-quality services that our skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers offer every day.

House Bill 119 would require the Maryland Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Aging, the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Council, and the Greater Maryland Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, to incorporate certain information regarding cognitive impairment, Alzheimer’s disease, and other types of dementia into relevant public health outreach programs administered by the Maryland Department of Health.

Dementia-related care is an integral part of the services that many of our members provide. We agree that education regarding early detection and assessment tools, along with public awareness and understanding of early signs of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias are critical to reducing risk and cognitive decline in older adults, particularly among individuals in diverse communities who are at greater risk.

**For these reasons we request a favorable report from the Committee on House Bill 119.**

*Submitted by:*

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