



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 119

January 19, 2021

TO: Members of the House and Government Operations Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: HOUSE BILL 119

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 119.

HB 119 requires 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 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.

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 2025 (Alzheimer's Association: *2020 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures*). Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) disproportionately affects minority populations. The 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 dementias." (Centers for Disease Control & Alzheimer's Association, *Healthy Brain Initiative, State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map*). A growing body of research indicates that ADRD is linked to other chronic diseases, particularly heart disease and diabetes. The Baltimore City Health Department believes that an important part of our state's strategy for addressing the impact of ADRD is to modify public health education programs and materials to reflect the connection between overall health and brain health.

We respectfully request a favorable report on HOUSE Bill 119.

*Annapolis – phone: 410.269.0207 • fax: 410.269.6785
Baltimore – phone: 410.396.3497 • fax: 410.396.5136
<https://mogr.baltimorecity.gov/>*