

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters
HB 0496 - Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Establishment
Position: Favorable

Chair Wilson and Vice Chair Crosby,

My name is Eric Colchamiro, Director of Government Affairs for the Alzheimer's Association in Maryland, and here today to ask for your support of HB 008.

According to the Alzheimer's Association's 2020 facts and figures data, there are 238,000 adult dementia caregivers. Those caregivers provide 364,000,000 hours of unpaid care, at an unpaid cost of \$6.5 billion. And, along with the family or loved ones they care for, they are hurting too; 68.8 percent have chronic health conditions, 27.7 percent have depression, and 13.6 percent are in poor physical health.

They are juggling so much, and they need time to care. They need essential leave, so their health is prioritized too, and they can more effectively manage caregiving while keeping their job. We urge a favorable report on this legislation.