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SPEAKER PRO TEM  
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Health and Government  
Operations Committee



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**TESTIMONY FOR HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**CHAIR SHANE PENDERGRASS**  
**VICE CHAIR JOSELINE PENA-MELNYK**

**HOUSE BILL 166: ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA – COUNCIL AND  
COORDINATION OF SERVICES (DEMENTIA SERVICES ACT OF 2022)**

**SUPPORT**

**February 3, 2022**

Good Afternoon Chairman Pendergrass and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 166, the Dementia Services Act of 2022. This bill would facilitate the coordination of the State's broad array of dementia services by creating a Director, within the Department of Health, who can ensure we are executing on all the work this Committee and the Alzheimer's Association has done in the past few years to improve the lives of those suffering from Dementia.

As many of you on this Committee know, my fight against Alzheimer's and Dementia is a personal one. Nearly every session since I was elected I have introduced legislation with the intent to improve how our State cares for those who suffer from these diseases, and lighten the burden on the families who can suffer just as much. This Committee has done tremendous work to that end, creating the Virginia Jones Alzheimer's Association, and most recently passing HB 119 last year to improve outreach to the families who suffer.

The potential of our efforts cannot be realized without strong coordination across our State agencies, the Alzheimer's Council, and the Federal Government. That is why I have introduced this bill, which will create a Director of Dementia Services who will coordinate efforts in all these areas, so we as a State are using our resources effectively, and so we can produce the best results for our citizens. While under the Department of Health, the Director will coordinate cross-agency efforts to combat Dementia, and will work with the Federal Government to secure grant funds, maximizing state dollars. With me today is a panel of advocates who can speak in more depth about how the Director will change the way we will help the 1 in 3 seniors who suffer in our State today.

Thank you again for your time. I request a favorable report on HB 166.