



Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association

House Bill 166: *Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia – Council and Coordination of Services (Dementia Services Act of 2022)*

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 3, 2022

Position: Support

On behalf of the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association (MNCHA), whose members include Medicare-certified home health agencies, private duty companies and durable medical equipment suppliers across the State, we **support** House Bill 166. Among other provisions, House Bill 166 would establish a full-time Director of Dementia Services Coordination within the Maryland Department of Health. The position will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating communication relating to dementia services in the State.

Individuals aged sixty and older remains the fastest growing segment of the population. The percentage of Marylanders over the age of sixty will rise from 18% in 2015 to 25% in 2030. Individuals between the ages of 80-84 are the fastest growing segment of the population. This cohort will grow by 136% from 2015 to 2040.¹ As such, the number of individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's disease is also expected to increase. It is our understanding that fourteen states plus the District of Columbia designate similar dementia-specific positions. Maryland must do better in planning for the needs of this growing segment of the population and the designation of a Director of Dementia Services Coordination is a beneficial first step. MNCHA urges a favorable vote.

For More Information:

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¹ Maryland Department of Aging 2017-2020 State Plan on Aging (page 10)