

VIRGINIA I. JONES ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DISORDERS COUNCIL

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February 3, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members,

The Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council (the Council) extends its support for **House Bill 166 (HB 166), titled "Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia – Council and Coordination of Services (Dementia Services Act)."** HB 166 establishes the position of Director of Dementia Services Coordination within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in addition to establishing terms of the appointed members of the Council, altering the staffing and reporting requirements of the Council, and repealing the termination date for the Council, among other provisions.

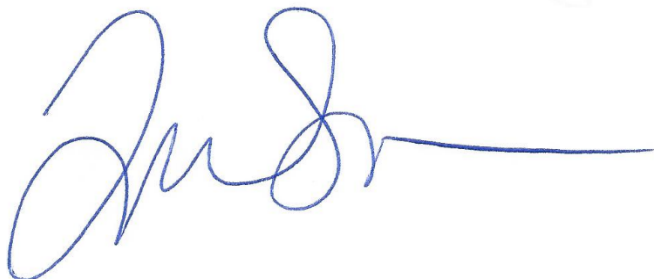
The Council extends its support for HB 166, as the position it seeks to establish within MDH would aid in supporting the work of the Council and improving the lives of Marylanders with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRD). Pursuant to Health-General Article, §13-3207, Annotated Code of Maryland, and Chapters 410 and 411 of the Acts of 2019, the Council is directed to update and promote the State Plan on ADRD (the Plan), which puts forth recommendations for policy and actions to achieve five major goals:

- Goal 1:** Expand efforts to support public awareness, prevention, and early detection of ADRD;
- Goal 2:** Enhance quality, access, and coordination of ADRD care;
- Goal 3:** Enhance and expand supports for family caregivers;
- Goal 4:** Advance ADRD research and encourage evidence-based practices; and
- Goal 5:** Enhance data capabilities related to dementia and dementia impact and effects of interventions.

Because of the comprehensive nature of the Plan, implementation will involve strategic engagement with a number of partners across the State, including MDH and the Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA). Accordingly, the creation and appointment of the director-level position provided for in HB 166 will be critical to coordinating and executing the Plan's proposed goals.

The Council respectfully urges this Committee to approve HB 166 as an important first step for the successful implementation, coordination, and monitoring of the State Plan on ADRD. In doing so, HB 166 will aid in advancing brain health, and promoting ADRD risk reduction, detection, treatment and care for Maryland residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Quincy M. Samus', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Quincy M. Samus, PhD, MS,
Chair, Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council

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