

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters  
**HB 747 – Maryland Health Care Commission – Nursing Home - Audit**  
Position: Favorable

Chair Pendergrass and Vice-Chair Pena-Melnyk,

My name is Eric Colchamiro, and I am Director of Government Affairs for the Alzheimer's Association in Maryland. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 747, legislation which requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to conduct an annual audit of cost trends, labor issues, and financial performance of nursing homes in the State; requires the Commission to conduct an annual survey of the nursing home workforce to include questions on working conditions, wages, hours and mandatory or voluntary overtime, and interactions with management and residents in the facility; and requires the Commission to establish a fee to be paid by each nursing home subject to the audit to cover the cost of the audit.

At a time when the demand for long term care is growing, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted Maryland's long-term care facilities. While information is collected about nursing homes, the state currently lacks a clear financial analysis of these facilities. Regular audits—as we have come to expect from our state's hospitals—can and should be part of policymakers' expectations for Maryland's 227 nursing homes, many of which are for-profit providers of care. Reporting trends and financial performance across all Maryland nursing facilities on an institution-specific, ownership group, and industry-wide basis would assist decision-makers in stabilizing our state's long-term care industry as we learn from the ongoing pandemic.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony, and we ask for a favorable report on House Bill 747.