



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

February 3, 2022

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

Written Testimony Only

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support with amendment for House Bill 166. HFAM represents over 170 skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as nearly 80 associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction in the state.

House Bill 166 makes changes to the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council by establishing 3-year terms for appointed members, altering the staffing, requiring the Council to issue and publish an update to the State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders every five years beginning September 1, 2022, establishing the position of Director of Dementia Services Coordination to facilitate communication relating to dementia services in the State, and repealing the termination date for the Council.

There are approximately 110,000 people aged 65 or older living with Alzheimer's in Maryland. Tens of thousands of these Marylanders are cared for in skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers or assisted living communities. **Therefore, we respectfully request that the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM) be added to the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council.**

We believe that the expertise of a leader from HFAM will add great value and insight to the Council, which is incredibly important to improving and enhancing the quality of life for those living with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders, and their families. The Council promotes and expands the availability and accessibility of home-and community-based support and service programs. In addition, the Council examines the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders as well as their caregivers to identify how the State can assist most effectively.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, aging demographics, and the ongoing healthcare workforce shortage, it is more important than ever that all stakeholders come together to advance public policy that enhances the quality of life for Marylanders living with Alzheimer's and provide support to their families and caregivers.

For these reasons and with the amendment to add HFAM to the Council, we request a favorable report from the Committee on House Bill 166.

Submitted by:

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