

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters  
**HB 430 - Human Services - Secretary of Aging - Qualifications**  
Position: Favorable

Chair Pendergrass and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk,  
The Alzheimer's Association submits testimony in support of HB 430. This legislation provides professional qualification requirements for an individual appointed to be Maryland's Secretary of Aging.

Our organization is grateful for the leadership of the current Secretary of Aging Rona Kramer and the work of the Hogan Administration to address the concerns of Marylanders as they age. This bill is not about our present Administration; it is codifying a standard for future individuals who fill this role.

As we move forward to the next gubernatorial Administration, our organization will continue to partner with the Maryland Department of Aging, and embraces the vision this bill provides for its next leader. The field of aging—as evidenced by the great work of industry, non-profits, academia and so many other entities—has progressed. The experience and commitment to Aging, which this bill requires, will reflect the growth of our work—including how we best address the concerns of the over 110,000 Marylanders with dementia, a figure that is expected to grow by nearly 20 percent in the next five years.

We urge a favorable report on this important piece of legislation.