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DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Finance Committee

Chair, Executive Nominations Committee

Spending Affordability Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Joint Committee on Management of  
Public Funds

Chair, Anne Arundel County  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2023

**SB 228**  
**Department of Aging – Long Term Care and Dementia Care**  
**Navigation Programs**

Good Afternoon Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Members of Health and Government Operations Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 228, Long Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Programs. SB228 is a cross-file of HB614, there is a sponsor amendment to fully conform this legislation to it cross-file.

This legislation, as amended, creates an outreach program at each of Maryland's local aging departments to connect with individuals who may have dementia and their caregivers. The program would:

- Assist individuals to connect with and navigate with Long Term Care Providers and Dementia Service providers,
- Offer educational programs about how to manage dementia, and
- Help people concerned with their cognitive function.

Delegate Cullison and I worked on this bill over the interim with the stakeholders. The bill:

- Addresses the prior concerns of the Department of Aging and affords them sufficient resources to staff this program internally.
- Allocates funding based on the need.
- Provides to aid caregivers and "individuals who demonstrate symptoms of dementia that interfere with activities with daily living."

We all struggle to grasp a disease that gets progressively worse—both for individuals with it and certainly their caregivers—as our loved ones may refuse to eat, get increasingly angry, have difficulty communicating, wander, and so much more.

I respectfully request a favorable report on amended SB 228.