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**SB 748 Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on
Prevalence and Treatment
Senate Finance Committee
March 4, 2025
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Beidle and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I am the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of AARP Maryland and our more than 850,000 members, I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of SB 748 – Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment. We thank Senator Kramer for introducing this bill.

AARP is committed to advocating for policies that promote the health, independence, and well-being of older adults. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias pose a significant public health challenge, affecting not only individuals diagnosed but also their families and caregivers. SB 748 is a critical step forward in ensuring that Marylanders have access to the latest, most accurate information about FDA-approved treatments and public health resources related to Alzheimer's and dementia.

This legislation will require the Maryland Department of Health to collaborate with key stakeholders to incorporate updated treatment information and increase public awareness through its health outreach programs. Access to reliable, evidence-based information is essential to empowering individuals and families to make informed decisions about brain health and dementia care.

AARP believes that brain health is fundamental to healthy aging. The more we understand about cognitive function and dementia prevention, the better we can support individuals in aging well. AARP is a leading voice in brain health education and offers a variety of resources to help people maintain cognitive function as they age, including:

- Staying Sharp – AARP's online program that helps people develop brain-healthy habits.
- Brain Health Resource Center – A hub for information on brain diseases, including Alzheimer's, stroke, and Parkinson's disease.
- Global Council on Brain Health – A collaborative effort of leading experts that provides science-based recommendations on brain health.
- Ongoing Research – AARP conducts studies to better understand cognitive health and dementia risk factors, helping to shape policy and improve public awareness.

By passing SB 748, Maryland has an opportunity to enhance public education efforts, expand access to crucial information, and improve the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's and related

dementias. AARP respectfully urges the committee to support this important legislation. For questions or follow up, you can contact me at tbresnashan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.