



**Bill:** HB 1478 - Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers

**Committee:** Finance

**Position:** Favorable

**Date:** March 25, 2025

On behalf of the 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease and their 247,000 caregivers, the Alzheimer's Association supports HB 1478 - *Report on Establishing a Directory of Home Health Care Providers*. HB 1478 will require the Maryland Department of Health to submit a report on the feasibility of establishing a home care directory.

**HB 1478 is an important step to providing more support for Marylanders in need of care and their home care workers.** As our population ages and more people develop dementia, the demand for home care services will increase. In 2024, an estimated 36% of individuals using home health services had Alzheimer's or other dementia.<sup>1</sup>

The largest segment of the workforce that supports people living with dementia is the direct care workforce.<sup>2</sup> These workers – many of whom are home care workers – assist with activities of daily living, such as bathing and eating, and play a broader role in promoting well-being for those living with dementia. Finding the right home care workers can be overwhelming for anyone, but can be especially overwhelming for dementia caregivers as there may be unique needs and challenges that arise when supporting an individual living with dementia. Therefore, it is important to provide as many tools as possible to assist in navigating the care journey.

HB 1478 will take an important step to address these challenges by analyzing the feasibility of a consumer-friendly home care directory which can serve as a starting point for caregivers of people living with dementia to identify workers and agencies that best meet their needs. For instance, knowing if a worker has completed dementia-specific training or speaks the preferred language can provide peace of mind to a family member and improve the quality of life for the individual living with dementia. Furthermore, this directory would allow the State to better assess where there are gaps in the home care workforce and take steps towards addressing those gaps.

The Alzheimer's Association supports HB 1478 and urges a favorable report. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at [mrpeters@alz.org](mailto:mrpeters@alz.org) with any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> 2024 Alzheimer's Facts and Figures, <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/76e51bb6-c003-4d84-8019-e0779d8c4e8d/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/76e51bb6-c003-4d84-8019-e0779d8c4e8d/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>