



Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association
Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents
The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 748 – Public Health – Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias – Information on Prevalence and Treatment

COMMITTEES: House Health and Government Operations Committee
The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Chair

DATE: Thursday, March 27, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA) is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 20,000 older adults living in 38 licensed CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA supports efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, financial security, and preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

On behalf of the Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association, we support Senate Bill 748. *This bill expands the information that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in partnership with specified entities, must incorporate into relevant public health outreach programs to include information (1) for health care providers on treatments approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, including relevant information on treatment use and outcomes and (2) to increase public understanding and awareness of early treatment of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias and FDA-approved treatments and relevant information on treatment use and outcomes. MDH, in collaboration with the State-designated health information exchange (HIE), must establish and maintain a publicly accessible website that includes specified information regarding Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in a downloadable format, which must be updated annually to include any newly available data.*

The number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias will increase each year as our population ages. That number will escalate rapidly in coming years as the baby boomer generation ages. We see the leading edge of baby boomers in our communities now. We have many residents in independent apartments that have dementia besides those in assisted living, memory care, and nursing care. Many of our members provide specialized memory care or dementia related care.

We know that the course of dementia is as varied as the individuals who experience it. We know that there is no way to predict how long someone may live with the disease. We know that people who are living with dementia can still experience joy, connection and love.

We support the Senate Bill 748 because it will raise the level of consciousness about the experience of having this disease and loving someone with this disease. We need to educate the community about this disease and the people affected whether in a senior living setting or in their home.

For these reasons we support Senate Bill 748 and ask for a favorable report.

For further information please contact: Bruce Hartung, President
Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association c/o brucehartung@sbcglobal.net