



One Park Place | Suite 475 | Annapolis, MD 21401-3475  
1-866-542-8163 | Fax: 410-837-0269  
aarp.org/md | md@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpm  
facebook.com/aarpm

**SB 748 Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on  
Prevalence and Treatment  
House Health and Government Operations Committee  
March 27, 2025  
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Peña-Melnyk and Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee; My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I serve as the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. On behalf of our more than 850,000 members across the state, I am pleased to offer strong support for Senate Bill 748 – Public Health – Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias – Information on Prevalence and Treatment.

We thank Senator Kramer for introducing this vital legislation and express our appreciation to Delegate Cullison for sponsoring the cross-filed House Bill 1004.

AARP is deeply committed to advocating for policies that support the health, independence, and quality of life of older Marylanders. Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias present one of the most significant public health challenges of our time—impacting not only those diagnosed, but also their families, caregivers, and communities.

SB 748 represents a critical step forward in addressing this challenge by ensuring that both the public and health care providers have access to timely, accurate, and actionable information about FDA-approved treatments and public health resources for Alzheimer’s and related dementias.

The bill expands the information that the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), in collaboration with designated partners, must include in public health outreach programs. Specifically, it requires:

1. Health care providers to receive current information about FDA-approved treatments, including guidance on usage and outcomes.
2. The general public to have improved access to educational materials that promote awareness of early diagnosis and treatment options.

Additionally, the bill mandates that MDH, in partnership with the State-designated health information exchange (HIE), establish and maintain a publicly accessible website that includes up-to-date, downloadable data on Alzheimer’s and related dementias. This site must be updated annually to reflect new data. SB 748 also includes technical corrections to references related to the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Council.

At AARP, we believe that brain health is foundational to aging well. The better we understand cognitive function and dementia prevention, the more empowered individuals and families will be to make informed decisions. AARP continues to be a leader in brain health education, offering a variety of resources, including:

- Staying Sharp – an online program that promotes brain-healthy habits.
- Brain Health Resource Center – a hub of information on cognitive health, including Alzheimer’s, stroke, and Parkinson’s disease.
- Global Council on Brain Health – an expert body providing science-based recommendations for maintaining cognitive wellness.
- Ongoing Research – AARP supports research that deepens our understanding of brain health and helps shape effective public policy.

By passing SB 748, Maryland can make meaningful strides in expanding access to critical information, raising public awareness, and improving outcomes for older adults living with Alzheimer’s and related dementias. We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 748. For questions or follow-up, please contact me at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or call 410-302-8451.