

Jeneva Stone: Written Testimony

Bill: HB 1004 - Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Position: Favorable

Date: February 28, 2025

Dear Committee Chair, Vice Chair and distinguished members,

As a member of the Caring Across Maryland coalition, I very much support HB 1004. In order to address the ongoing care crisis in Maryland (and throughout the country), we will need to collect data, both to ensure a strong care workforce, and to target early treatment options which have proven efficacy.

My own grandmother had dementia, and I watched my father and his brothers struggle to care for her. She passed away in 2007. At the time, and still today, I continue to be a family caregiver for my own disabled son. The stress—emotional and economic—is intense. I observed then that at the time seniors develop dementia, their children are often unable to help with their care, putting a strain on state resources, including facilities—and, frankly, as a disability advocate, I need to add that no one belongs in a facility.

As a citizen member of a subcommittee of Maryland's Care Workforce Crisis Taskforce a few years ago, I observed first hand that MDH collected little data—on anything. The state's lack of data collection only contributes to the ongoing financial crisis that is MDH. Without data, you cannot take actionable steps to ameliorate anything.

Thank you!