



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: House Bill 1004 – Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (HB) 1004 – Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment. This bill would require the Department to work in partnership with the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Council (the Council) to provide healthcare provider training regarding treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Additionally, this bill requires the Department to create and maintain an Alzheimer's Data dashboard reporting ADRD-specific prevalence, hospitalization, and demographic data in collaboration with the Maryland Health Data Exchange.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that leads to memory loss, cognitive decline, and behavioral changes. It is the most common form of dementia, affecting millions of people worldwide, and its impact increases as the population ages. Alzheimer's causes irreversible damage to brain cells, impairing daily functioning and ultimately leading to a loss of independence<sup>1</sup>. The 2022-2026 Maryland State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD State Plan) outlines a comprehensive approach to improving care, services, and support for individuals living with Alzheimer's and related dementias in Maryland.<sup>2</sup> The ADRD State Plan emphasizes enhancing public awareness; expanding caregiver support, strengthening the healthcare system; enhancing data capabilities related to dementia, dementia impact, and effects of interventions; and advancing research. HB 1004 would contribute to the objectives outlined in the ADRD State Plan, particularly Goal 5: Enhance data capabilities related to dementia and dementia impact and effects of interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, August 15). About Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. <https://www.cdc.gov/alzheimers-dementia/about/alzheimers.html>

<sup>2</sup> Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council, & Samus, Q. M. (2022). Maryland State plan to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias: 2022-2026. In Maryland State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: 2022-2026. [https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Documents/FINAL\\_ADRD%20STATE%20PLAN%202022-2026.pdf](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/ccdpc/Documents/FINAL_ADRD%20STATE%20PLAN%202022-2026.pdf)

The Department recognizes the contribution that data access makes to our ongoing efforts to address ADRD in Maryland. However, the Department notes that there is a small fiscal impact for HB 1004 that is not included in the bill to support the required work of creating and maintaining the dashboard and required outreach.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Scott".

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary