



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

DATE: February 27, 2025

RE: HB1004 – Public Health – Alzheimer’s Disease and Related
Dementias – Information on Prevalence and Treatment

The MLLC supports HB1004 – Public Health – Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias – Information on Prevalence and Treatment

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1004.

Studies show that Latinos are at a higher risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias compared to non-Hispanic whites, yet they often face barriers to early diagnosis, treatment, and healthcare access. This bill enhances Maryland’s response to Alzheimer’s and related dementias by expanding awareness, improving data access, and promoting early diagnosis and treatment. It directs the Maryland Department of Health, in partnership with state and advocacy organizations, to incorporate FDA-approved treatments into public health outreach and educate healthcare providers on early detection, assessment tools, and Medicare coverage. The bill also mandates a publicly accessible website with statewide prevalence and hospitalization data, disaggregated by age, sex, race, ethnicity, and county, updated annually starting in 2027.

Through these provisions, the bill addresses significant health disparities affecting Latino communities. By requiring public health outreach efforts to include FDA-approved treatments and emphasizing early detection and prevention, this bill ensures that Latino families receive information and resources to navigate dementia care. Additionally, the requirement for statewide prevalence and hospitalization data, disaggregated by race and ethnicity, allows for a clearer understanding of how Alzheimer’s impacts Latino populations in Maryland, guiding better policy decisions and resource allocation.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1004.