



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Ryan Moran, Dr.PH, Acting Secretary

March 27, 2025

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

RE: Senate Bill 748 – 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 (SB) 748 – Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment.

As amended, this bill would require the Department to work in partnership with the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Council (the Council) and other partners to provide healthcare provider training regarding treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including relevant information on treatment use and outcomes; and increase public understanding and awareness of treatments approved by the FDA for ADRD and related information on treatment and use outcomes. 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 independence¹. 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.² The ADRD State Plan emphasizes enhancing public awareness; expanding caregiver support, strengthening the healthcare system; enhancing data capabilities related to dementia, dementia

¹ 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>

² 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

impact, and effects of interventions; and advancing research. SB 748 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.

The Department recognizes the contribution that data access makes to our ongoing efforts to address ADRD in Maryland. However, the Department notes that SB 748 will have a fiscal impact to support the required work of creating and maintaining the dashboard and required outreach. A funding source for this is not addressed in the bill.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan B. Moran". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ryan B. Moran, Dr.P.H., MHSA
Acting Secretary