



Bill: HB 1478 - Public Health - Home Health Care Providers - Directory

Committee: Health and Government Operations

Position: Favorable

Date: March 11, 2025

On behalf of the 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease and their 247,000 caregivers, the Alzheimer's Association supports HB 1478 - *Public Health - Home Health Care Providers - Directory*. HB 1478 will establish a consumer-friendly home care worker directory, maintained by the Maryland Department of Health, to improve access to home and community-based services and meet the varying needs of Maryland's aging population.

HB 1478 will support Marylanders who need home care services. Home care services are a service many people living with dementia will need at some point in the disease – for instance, in 2024, **an estimated 36% of individuals using home health services had Alzheimer's or other dementia.**¹ Finding the right home care can be overwhelming for anyone, but can be especially overwhelming for dementia caregivers as there may be unique needs and challenges that arise when supporting an individual living with dementia. Therefore, **it is important to provide as many tools as possible to assist in navigating the care process.**

A Home Health Care Provider Directory can serve as a starting point for caregivers to identify workers and agencies that can best meet their needs. For instance, knowing if a worker has completed dementia-specific training or speaks the preferred language can provide peace of mind to a family member and improve the quality of life for the individual living with dementia. Overall, HB 1478 will enable Marylanders to be more informed in their decision making process and find sustainable and reliable care for their loved one.

Lastly, 12 other states have matching service home directories.² While some states have enhanced user-friendly dashboards that are more expensive, starting with a low-cost spreadsheet maintained on the Maryland Department of Health website will be impactful for Marylanders. This will move the State forward in helping the Marylanders who need home care services.

The Alzheimer's Association supports HB 1478 and urges a favorable report. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at mrpeters@alz.org with any questions.

¹ 2024 Alzheimer's Facts and Figures, <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/76e51bb6-c003-4d84-8019-e0779d8c4e8d/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>

² PHI Matching Service Registries <https://www.phinational.org/advocacy/matching-service-registries/>