



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: February 26, 2025

Bill Number: **HB1004**

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

Committee: House Health and Government Operations

MDOA Position: INFORMATION

The Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this letter of information on Senate Bill (HB) 11004 - Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. Pursuant to state legislation in 2023, MDOA has established a long-term care and dementia care navigation program with effective strategy to address the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) and their caregivers in Maryland's rapidly growing older adult population. MDOA conducts this work in partnership with the AAAs and in alignment with Maryland's Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council and Maryland's State Plan on Aging.

MDOA is acutely aware of Maryland's relatively high rates of Alzheimer's, particularly in Baltimore City and Prince George's County.¹ These rates underscore the need for new concerted, collaborative state action in the future. MDOA is thus supportive of the concept of the enhanced

¹ "Researchers Reveal First Ever County-Level Alzheimer's Prevalence Estimates," Alzheimer's Association Press Release, July 17, 2023, *available at*: https://aaic.alz.org/releases_2023/us-county-level-alzheimers-prevalance-estimates.asp



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ADRD prevalence data collection and public reporting by appropriate state agencies in the future, when significant implementation challenges could be addressed.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel Roques".

Carmel Roques
Secretary
Maryland Department of Aging