



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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Committee: House Health and Government Operations

Bill Number: House Bill 1004 – Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment

Hearing Date: February 28, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 1004 – Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment*. The bill would require the Maryland Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Aging, the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Council, and the Greater Maryland Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association to incorporate information regarding treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and to increase understanding and awareness of treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias into relevant public health outreach programs.

Alzheimer's disease causes a continual loss of cognitive function including memory problems which have a significant impact on older adults' daily life and activities. Currently, there is no known cure for Alzheimer's disease. Occupational therapy is a non-pharmacological dementia intervention that helps manage the symptoms of Alzheimer's dementia, and occupational therapy practitioners can help people with Alzheimer's disease maintain their independence and quality of life. This bill will ensure that all Marylanders have access to information regarding treatments and management strategies that can help slow the progression of the disease and improve symptoms, ultimately improving health outcomes.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.