

Marylanders for Patient Rights

MARYLANDERS FOR PATIENT RIGHTS REQUESTS A FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB748 Public Health-Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias, Information on Prevalence and Treatment

Marylanders for Patient Rights is the leading advocacy coalition for patients in our state, and we strongly support SB748. Having spent three years as primary caregiver for an elderly family friend who had Alzheimer's, I know from personal experience about the importance of this bill.

It is estimated that Maryland has the highest prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in the country. This legislation will raise awareness about Alzheimer's, improve data collection, and provide insights into Maryland residents' Alzheimer's incidences and outcomes. Scientists have linked different types of dementia not only to inherited genetics, but also to exposure to certain environmental chemicals. Marylanders need more information about risk assessment, diagnosis, and current treatment options when they or their loved ones are faced with this dreaded disease.

SB748 will establish an annual data reporting requirement on dementia prevalence in Maryland, as well as ensure that information on treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are included in relevant public health outreach programs. States including MN, NY, OH, CA and others have websites for public outreach, and Maryland can follow these models.

Please provide a favorable report on SB748, and help to inform Maryland patients and families on the prevalence and treatment of those suffering from Alzheimer's and other types of dementia.

Thank you,

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