



Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network

MSCAN

AARP Maryland

Alzheimer's
Association,
Maryland Chapters

Baltimore Jewish
Council

Catholic Charities of
Baltimore

Central Maryland
Ecumenical Council

Church of the Brethren

Episcopal Diocese of
Maryland

Housing Opportunities
Commission of
Montgomery County

Lutheran Office on
Public Policy in
Maryland

Maryland Association of
Area Agencies on Aging

Maryland Catholic
Conference

Mental Health
Association of Maryland

Mid-Atlantic LifeSpan

National Association of
Social Workers,
Maryland Chapter

Presbytery of Baltimore

The Coordinating
Center

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Testimony in Support of HB 1004 - Public Health - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias - Information on Prevalence and Treatment House Health and Government Operations February 28, 2025

The Maryland Senior Citizens Action Network (MSCAN) is a statewide coalition of advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based and mission-driven organizations that supports policies that meet the housing, health and quality of care needs of Maryland's low and moderate-income seniors.

MSCAN supports HB 1004. This legislation 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 dementia are included in relevant public health outreach programs.

Maryland has the highest estimated prevalence of Alzheimer's disease in the nation among those 65 and older, yet **Maryland lacks comprehensive state-specific data on dementia to inform program and policy decisions.** Without accurate data, we cannot effectively monitor trends, identify disparities, or assess the impact of interventions statewide. **MSCAN supports ensuring access to state-specific dementia data,** including prevalence data and other key data points, via an online website. This initiative directly aligns with Goal 5 of the State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias—enhancing data capabilities to improve outcomes.

Recent FDA-approved treatments have the potential to alter the progression of Alzheimer's disease, offering hope for people impacted by this disease. Early intervention through treatment can provide time to plan for the future, adopt lifestyle changes, participate in clinical trials, and live more fully with a higher quality of life for as long as possible. However, **many Marylanders and their healthcare providers lack awareness of available treatment options.** HB 1004 will ensure that existing state-led dementia public health outreach includes information on treatment. **Marylanders deserve to be informed of their treatment options** as soon as possible so that they are not missing out on treatments.

Overall, HB 1004 will advance data-driven decisions on dementia policy and programs in Maryland and improve public awareness about treatments – ultimately moving the State one step closer to a future without dementia.

For all these reasons, MSCAN urges a favorable report on HB 1004. Thank you for your consideration.