



Bill: HB 604 - Vulnerable and Senior Adults - Theft of Property by Caregiver, Family Member, or Household Member - Prohibition

Committee: Judiciary

Position: Favorable

Date: February 11, 2025

On behalf of the 127,000 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association supports HB 604 - Vulnerable and Senior Adults - Theft of Property by Caregiver, Family Member, or Household Member - Prohibition and urges a favorable report. This legislation will provide additional protections for vulnerable adults and senior adults from exploitation by a caregiver. Specifically, this legislation will ensure appropriate actions can be taken against a caregiver who exploits a vulnerable or senior adult.

Elder abuse is a serious and growing problem. Every year, an estimated five million seniors in the United States are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation.¹ According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, one in ten older adults experiences some form of abuse, yet it remains underreported.²

Adults living with dementia are particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation because the disease may prevent them from reporting or recognizing it. Abuse can occur anywhere, including at home and in care settings. Strengthening protections and ensuring appropriate action can be taken against bad actors ensures our vulnerable adults and older adults can live their lives with dignity and security.

The Alzheimer's Association urges a favorable report on HB 604. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at mrpeters@alz.org with any questions.

¹ <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/events-and-observances/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day>

² <https://ncea.acl.gov/elder-abuse#gsc.tab=0>