



**Bill:** HB 246 - Human Services - Adult Protective Services

**Committee:** Judiciary Committee

**Position:** Favorable

**Date:** January 30, 2025

On behalf of the 127,000 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease and the 247,000 caregivers, the Alzheimer's Association supports *HB 246 - Human Services - Adult Protective Services* and urges a favorable report. This legislation will strengthen protections for seniors by streamlining the State's approach to address abuse, neglect, and exploitation – specifically through allowing easier coordination between Adult Protective Service (APS) agencies, law enforcement, and other government officials.

Older adults living with dementia are particularly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation because the disease may prevent them from reporting or recognizing it. Investigations into abuse, like those done through Adult Protective Services (APS), can promote safety, independence, and quality of life for adults living with dementia and other vulnerable adults.

HB 246 will allow the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) to share certain APS information with other governmental agencies, if the information is relevant to an investigation. Streamlining processes to share information across agencies is crucial to coordinating a comprehensive response, ensuring a timely investigation, and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our vulnerable adults.

The Alzheimer's Association urges a favorable report on HB 246. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at [mrpeters@alz.org](mailto:mrpeters@alz.org) with any questions.