



Bill: SB 340 - Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman - Mandatory Appropriation

Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Position: Favorable

Date: April 7, 2026

On behalf of the 127,200 Marylanders living with Alzheimer's disease and the many others with another type of dementia, the Alzheimer's Association supports SB 340. This bill will strengthen the Maryland Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program by requiring an annual appropriation to support operations. This stable funding commitment is essential to protect the health, safety, and well-being of residents living with dementia in long-term care settings.

Marylanders living with dementia make up a substantial portion of Maryland's long-term care population. In 2025, an estimated 46% of nursing home residents and 42% of individuals in residential care facilities (such as assisted living) were living with dementia.¹ These individuals rely on the Ombudsman Program to investigate complaints, safeguard resident rights, and advocate for individuals who often cannot advocate for themselves.

The Ombudsman Program's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Report highlights the immense demand for their services. In FY25 alone, the Program investigated 3,978 complaints and completed 7,252 visits to nursing homes and assisted living homes. These numbers underscore how critically residents depend on the Ombudsman Program, especially individuals living with dementia who may have difficulty communicating concerns about abuse, neglect, poor care transitions, medication errors, or involuntary discharges.

By ensuring stable funding, SB 340 directly strengthens Maryland's long-term care system and protects thousands of residents living with dementia. For these reasons, the Alzheimer's Association urges a favorable report on SB 340. Please contact Megan Peters, Director of Government Affairs at mrpeters@alz.org with any questions.

¹ 2025 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures, <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>