

Date: March 31, 2026 - Testimony HB 1434 Senate Finance Committee

**Re: HB 1434 Senate Finance Committee - Caregiver Resource Webpage – Establishment
Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Reginald A. Lawson**. I write to express my support for **House Bill 1434**, which would establish a centralized caregiver resource webpage to help stakeholders easily access services, supports, and guidance available across Maryland.

My caregiving journey began in a doctor's office with a diagnosis of my mother having dementia, and I said “oh, that’s what you call her behavior.” In a moment of confidence and ignorance, I said to the doctor “tell me what medicines she needs, call the pharmacy and I'll pick them up.” She gave one of those ‘you poor soul’ smiles, and said “there is no such medicine, and she was requesting immediate suspension of my mother’s driving privileges, and she had very little advice beyond that.”

In that moment I knew that I didn't understand the word, but I had to do what was right for my mother! My research provided clinical and anecdotal references which were inadequate for my needs. This led to deepening fears and frustration. I was, as a new caregiver, constantly bombarded with doubt (self and others), frustration from dealing with uncaring or undereducated health, social and financial services people, and worst of all, accusations of selfishness (from family). None of us knew what we were dealing with!

I quickly accepted I needed an understanding of what, when, who and how to function at the ground zero Caregiver’s level, not some clinical level.

House Bill 1434 recognizes that caregivers are often responsible for navigating multiple and complex systems at every stage of the disabilities’ lifespan. A centralized, accessible and up-to-date caregiver webpage would provide all Maryland stakeholders with relevant knowledge and resources. This webpage will enhance their efficiency, effectiveness and sanity to do their best to render support.

I reflect, to this day, that I may have failed my mother because I was not better informed. For these reasons, I humbly urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on House Bill 1434**.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Reginald A. Lawson
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