



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee:	Senate Finance Committee
Bill Number:	Seante Bill 555
Title:	Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Clinical Toolkit
Hearing Date:	February 24, 2026
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports Senate Bill 555 - Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Clinical Toolkit. The bill would create the Dementia Services and Brain Health Program within the Maryland Department of Health to coordinate statewide efforts on Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. It expands the role of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Council and shifts dementia coordination duties from a single director to this new program. The bill also requires the development of a clinical toolkit for health care providers and strengthens public awareness, prevention, early detection, and data tracking.

Occupational therapists support this bill because it strengthens early detection, care coordination, and dementia-capable health care. The required clinical toolkit and emphasis on provider education align with occupational therapists’ expertise in functional assessment, environmental modification, and evidence-based interventions for people living with dementia. By promoting prevention and brain health, the bill supports OT involvement earlier in the disease process, when interventions can have the greatest impact. It also recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, positioning occupational therapists as key contributors alongside other healthcare providers. Overall, the bill helps expand access to services that improve daily function, caregiver support, and quality of life for individuals with dementia and their families.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.