



Managed By LifeSpan

House Health Committee

February 5, 2026

House Bill 162 – Department of Aging – Maryland Access Point – Dementia-Friendly Communities

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

On behalf of the LifeSpan Network, the Maryland-National Capital Homecare Association, and the Maryland Association for Medical Adult Day Services, we **support** House Bill 162, which requires the Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA), through Maryland Access Point, to provide public awareness and educational materials to communities regarding dementia. The Department must provide resources, training, grants, and other support to the Maryland Access Point network to create dementia-friendly communities through community-based efforts. The bill also requires the Department to facilitate specialized training for first responders, local businesses, public agencies, and community groups that encourage staff to be more aware and supportive of individuals with dementia.

According to MDOA, in 2023, more than 1.4 million adults aged 60 and older lived in Maryland. By 2035, that population is expected to increase by about 6.6%. Maryland’s 85 and over population is the fastest growing segment of the older adult population, projected to include more than 315,000 people by 2045 – a 158% increase from 2020.<sup>1</sup> Likewise, the Alzheimer’s Association in its 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures estimates the prevalence of Alzheimer’s Dementia (AD) among adults aged 65 years and older (2020) in Maryland to be 12%.<sup>2</sup> Creating more dementia-friendly communities is necessary because, as individuals live longer, the prevalence of dementia increases, and many environments are not designed to support cognitive challenges. Creating dementia-friendly communities helps people with dementia remain independent, connected, and safe for longer, while reducing stress on families and caregivers, including senior care provider programs.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

**For more information call:**

Danna L. Kauffman  
Andrew G. Vetter  
Christine K. Krone  
410-244-7000

<sup>1</sup> [Paving the Way for a Longevity Ready Maryland](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Alzheimer's Association 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures](#)