



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 6, 2026

Bill Number: HB1434

Bill Title: Maryland Department of Health - Caregiver Resource Webpage - Establishment

Committee: House Health Committee

MDOA Position: Information

Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this informational testimony on HB1434 - Maryland Department of Health - Caregiver Resource Webpage - Establishment. MDOA serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal and state funding for core programs, overseeing the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) network at the local level that provides services, and planning for Maryland's older adult population. MDOA currently administers two caregiver support programs: the National Family Caregiver Support Program¹ which provides funding to the AAAs for caregiver-focused assistance like counseling, support groups, training, and some direct respite care, as well as an evidence-based virtual hub for caregiver workshops.² MDOA administers a dementia, cognitive and behavioral health navigation program at the state and AAA levels, to better serve older adults living with dementia and their caregivers. This program recently launched a new online tool, the Johns Hopkins Memory Care Family Checklist Tool geared at better supporting people experiencing cognitive health changes and their caregivers.³ MDOA has a full-time staff member focused on caregiving work and recently received a competitive federal grant award to further Maryland's work in this space, in collaboration with

¹ MDOA, National Family Caregiver Support Program, available at: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/national-family-caregiver-support.aspx>

² MD Living Well Center for Excellence, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, available at: <https://mdlivingwell.org/programs/powerful-tools-for-caregivers/>

³ MDOA, Memory Care Family Checklist, available at: <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/MemoryCareChecklist.aspx>



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the Maryland Commission on Caregiving. MDOA's caregiving staff chairs the Commission on Caregiving.

Under longtime federal law, MDOA already operates the statewide information and referral service for older adults and their caregivers, called Maryland Access Point⁴. Its website and help line statewide and in each county includes several services, training and support for caregivers and is regularly updated with new resources. MDOA has invested significant resources in this website in recent years and has enhanced its partnership with Maryland 211 to expand the resources and functionality of that existing platform. Caregiver subsidies, training and other support are subsections of the overall caregiving page. MDOA notes that the Maryland Departments of Disabilities and Maryland Commission on Caregiving also currently have information on their websites focused on assisting caregivers. Requiring MDH to create a similar, new website could result in duplication of the same service with limited state resources.

MDOA is glad to continue engagement with the bill sponsor and MDH around this legislation anytime. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Andrea Nunez with any questions or concerns: andrea.nunez@maryland.gov, 443-414-8183.

⁴ Maryland Access Point, *available at*: <https://marylandaccesspoint.211md.org/caregiving/>