



Senior Family Supports LLC
3803 24th Avenue
Temple Hills, MD 20748
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MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES HEALTH COMMITTEE

TO: Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
Honorable Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair

Good Afternoon Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Members:

I, Gloria Lawlah, former Secretary of Aging, am urging you to support passage of HB 162 Department of Aging-Maryland Access Point-Dementia Friendly Communities sponsored by the Honorable Pam Queen.

In 2015, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Butler in conjunction with the White House US Office on Aging launched the Dementia Friendly America Initiative (DFAI). Prince George's County became the first of six governmental entities NATIONALLY to establish a DFAI! In the past ten years Prince George's County has developed a nationally-recognized DFAI model as well as encouraged and supported the establishment of DFAI in other Maryland counties.

HB 162 supports the establishment of a statewide funded -supported DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES program within the Department of Aging's Maryland Access Point for all 19 Triple-As.

It will provide the resources, training grants and supports necessary to create and sustain Dementia Friendly Communities within each Triple A local community-based effort.

Maryland families, seniors, caregivers and Maryland's healthcare community will be among the many beneficiaries. Our state will prosper from this important action by you.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill and thank you for your leadership and support!

Sincerely,
GLORIA LAWLAH
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I. FUNDING PURPOSE:

HB 162 will enhance and expand DFAI efforts to:

- A. Heighten awareness of Dementia in our state,
- B. Expand programmatic and support services for Alzheimer's and other Dementias,
- C. Respond to the rapidly increasing needs of persons affected by Alzheimer's and other Dementias, their families and their caregivers, and
- D. Expand the DFAI program and services into all communities across the state to include the growing number of Latino and Hispanic communities.

II. IMPORTANT OUTCOMES:

HB 162 will provide funding necessary to improve the brain health and cognitive resilience of state residents. Funding will enable many more residents to continue to live safely and independently in their own homes for longer periods of time. This is a national agenda for federal, state and local governments seeking to save billions in Medicare and Medicaid resources!

III. SENIOR FAMILY SUPPORTS LLC ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW:

Senior Family Supports LLC (SeFAMS) is a community-based human services organization established in 2015, serving senior residents, their families and caregivers in Prince George's County Maryland.

SeFAMS is committed to improving the brain health of all Prince George's County residents. To that end, for the past decade, SeFAMS has been contracted to implement the "Dementia Friendly America Initiative (DFAI)," county-wide, in conjunction with the White House national priority launched in 2015.

SeFAMS is collaborating with the Area Agency on Aging (Triple A) and the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center, Department of Family Services, to tailor the program to meet local needs.

The organization has established a DFAI network covering a population of approximately 966,629 county residents organized into three regional action teams:

- North County DFAI Action Team,
- Mid-County DFAI Action Team, and
- South County DFAI Action Team.

Each team is headed by a certified Dementia Care Practitioner (DCP). Each DFAI Action Team DCP is a certified "Stronger Memory Facilitator," a certified "Dementia Friends Trainer" and a certified "Caregivers Trainer."