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WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND
THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

February 11, 2026

To:

Delegate Heather Bagnall, Chair

Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Vice Chair

Health Committee

The Maryland Women's Caucus proudly supports HB 0162, Department of Aging – Maryland Access Point – Dementia-Friendly Communities.

HB 0162 requires the Department of Aging to provide resources, training, grants, and other support to the Maryland Access Point network to help create dementia-friendly communities through community-based initiatives. The bill also requires the Maryland Access Point network to provide public awareness and educational materials to communities regarding ways to support individuals living with dementia.

This legislation recognizes the growing impact of dementia on Maryland families. Women are disproportionately affected—both as individuals living with dementia and as primary caregivers. Community-based support, education, and coordinated resources are essential to ensuring that individuals with dementia can live safely and with dignity in their communities.

The Maryland Women's Caucus is committed to advancing policies that support aging populations and the caregivers who sustain them. By strengthening the Maryland Access Point network, HB 0162 promotes awareness, reduces stigma, and equips communities with practical tools to respond compassionately and effectively to the needs of residents with dementia.

Creating dementia-friendly communities improves quality of life, enhances public safety, and fosters inclusive environments where older adults and their families feel supported.

For these reasons, the Maryland Women's Caucus respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 0162.