



Wes Moore | Governor

Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor

Carmel Roques | Secretary

Date: March 30, 2026

Bill Number: **SB 555**

Bill Title: Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Provider Resource Toolkit

Committee: House Health Committee

MDOA Position: FAVORABLE AS AMENDED

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) respectfully submits this favorable as amended testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 555 - Health - Dementia Services and Brain Health Program and Provider Resource Toolkit.

The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) serves as Maryland's State Unit of Aging, administering federal 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 leads a still-new Long-Term Care and Dementia Navigation Program statewide and is an active participant of the Virginia I. Jones Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Council.

Maryland's demographic landscape is shifting rapidly. According to projections, the older adult population, already significant, will represent a larger share of Maryland's residents in the coming decade. Preparing for this change is at the heart of the state's Longevity Ready Maryland (LRM) initiative, a comprehensive, 10-year multisector plan launched to ensure that Maryland supports healthy, secure, and purposeful lives for its older residents. Its framework is informed by population projections showing that Marylanders aged 60 and older will constitute roughly a quarter or more of the state's population by 2030, a trend that underscores the urgency of policy responses on a variety of topics, including: improving equitable access to holistic health care that addresses physical, behavioral, emotional and cognitive health.



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MDOA supports all of the amendments to SB 555 adopted by the bill sponsors, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health and the Alzheimer's Association. Delivering well-regarded resources on Alzheimer's and related dementias to more health care professionals, whether they are clinically or non-clinically trained will increase access to more holistic health care that addresses cognitive health. Codifying the Department of Health's Dementia Services and Brain Health Program beyond a single director role is another commendable, foundational step for the agency, and aligns with MDOA's own efforts to update key statutes over the past two years.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Nunez, Legislative Director, at andrea.nunez@maryland.gov or (443) 414-8183.