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2025 MARYLAND STATE PRIORITIES

The Alzheimer's Association is championing legislation sponsored by Senator Kramer (Montgomery County) and Delegate Martinez (Prince George's County). **Vote YES on SB 748 and HB 1004!** These will establish an annual data report on Maryland's dementia prevalence, and will also require that certain public health outreach programs include information on Alzheimer's treatment.

ESTABLISH DATA REPORTING ON DEMENTIA PREVALENCE.

Dementia is a growing public health crisis in Maryland that needs to be addressed. **Maryland has the highest estimated prevalence of Alzheimer's in the nation.**

However, we do not collect state-specific data on dementia prevalence that could inform our programs and policies.

We support legislation in 2025 to establish an online dashboard, updated annually, with data on dementia prevalence and other dementia-related data points.

This legislation aligns with Goal 5 of the State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia - to enhance data capabilities related to dementia.

WHY IS COLLECTING DATA IMPORTANT?

Data on dementia will allow researchers, public health officials, healthcare workers, policymakers, and others to make progress towards a future without dementia. Data will provide opportunities to monitor trends, understand needs in specific groups or regions, create targeted services, and assess the effectiveness of programs and policies.

PROVIDE INFORMATION ON TREATMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

NEW FDA-APPROVED TREATMENTS CAN CHANGE DISEASE PROGRESSION, NOT JUST EASE SYMPTOMS.

Early intervention can provide more time to plan for the future, adopt lifestyle changes, participate in clinical trials, and live more fully with a higher quality of life for as long as possible.

Maryland has taken important steps to increase awareness of dementia among the public and our health care providers.

In 2021, the General Assembly passed HB 119/SB 313 to increase access to information on dementia risk reduction and the importance of early detection and diagnosis within existing outreach efforts.

We support legislation to ensure existing state-led dementia outreach efforts include information on treatments to ensure Marylanders are informed of their options after a diagnosis.

PRESERVE FUNDING FOR DEMENTIA SERVICES.

>>> The Long-Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program annual budget is at risk of being permanently cut in 2025. **Please preserve critical funding for this program!**

Why must funding be preserved?

Dementia is a growing public health crisis. **Maryland is #1** in the nation for estimated prevalence of Alzheimer's among people age 65+.

Dementia is a costly disease. In 2020, **Maryland Medicaid costs for people living with Alzheimer's were $1.2 billion.**

The impacts are serious. Caregivers of people with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial, and physical difficulties.

The Long-Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program creates long-term savings. These savings will be lost if the budget is cut.

The Long-Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program at the Maryland Department of Aging can reduce healthcare costs for people living with dementia and improve caregiver wellbeing by helping caregivers navigate the complex maze of dementia care through services (i.e. care planning, referrals, etc.) at each Area Agency on Aging (AAA). This Program and other State-funded dementia services are important solutions to addressing the growing dementia public health crisis in 2025 and beyond.

The Long-Term Care and Dementia Care Navigation Program **annual budget is at risk of being permanently cut from $2.4 million to $1.2 million through statutory changes in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2025**. Cutting this Program's budget permanently will cost Maryland far more in increased Medicaid spending as families are forced to turn to nursing home care without adequate support to keep their loved ones at home.